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THE
Careless Husband.
A
COMEDY.

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THE
Careless Husband.

A
COMEDY.

As it is ACTED at the
THEATRE ROYAL,

BY
Her MAJESTY's Servants.

Written by C. CIBBER.

*Let none Sir Fopling Him, or Him can call,
He's Knight o' th' Shire, and Represents you all.
Qui Capit, Ille Facit.*

LONDON,

Sold for William Davis, at the Black Bull, over-against
the Royal Exchange in Cornhill, 1705.

To the Most Illustrious

J O H N

*Duke and Earl of Argile, Marquis of
Lorne, Lord Kintyre, Campbel and
Lorne, Heretable Master of the Household,
Colonel and Captain of her Majesty's Troop
of Horse-Guards in Scotland, and Knight
of the most Ancient and Noble Order of
St. Andrew.*

THIS Play at last through many Difficulties, has made way to throw itself at your Grace's Feet : And, considering what well-meant Attempts were made to intercept it in its Course to so great an Honour, I have had reason not to think it intirely successful, till (where my Ambition always design'd it) I found it safe in your Protection : Which when several means had fail'd of making it less Worthy of the Spleen, ended with the Old Good Nature that was offer'd to my First Play, viz. That it was none of my own : But that's a Praise I have indeed some reason to be proud of, since your Grace from Evincing Circumstances is Able to divide the Malice from the Com-

A

The

The Dedication.

The Best Criticks have long, and justly complained that the Courtnels of most Characters in our late Comedies have been unfit Entertainments for People of Quality, especially the Ladies: And therefore I was long in Hopes, that some able Pen (whose Expectation did not Hang upon the Profits of success) wou'd generously attempt to reform the Town into a better Taste, than the World generally allows 'em: But nothing of that kind having lately appear'd, that wou'd give me an Opportunity of being Wise at anothers Expence, I found it Impossible any longer to Resist the secret Temptation of my Vanity, and so evn struck the first Blow my self: And the Event has now convinc'd me, that whoever sticks closely to Nature can't easily write above the Understanding of the Galleries, tho' at the same Time he may Possibly deserve Applause of the Boxes.

This Play before its Tryal on the Stage was Examin'd by several People of Quality, that came into your Graces Opinion of its being a Just, a Proper, and Diverting

At-

The Dedication.

Attempt in Comedy; but few of them carry'd the Compliment beyond their private Approbation. For when I was wishing for a little farther Hope, they stopt short of your Grace's Penetration, and only kindly wisht me what they seem'd to fear, and you assur'd me of a General Success.

But your Grace has been pleas'd, not only to encourage me with your Judgment; but have likewise by your Favourable Influence in the Bounties that were rais'd me for the Third and Sixth Day, defended me against any Hazards of an entire Disappointment from so bold an Undertaking: And therefore, whatever the World may think of me, as one they call a *Poet*; yet I am confident, as your Grace understands me, I shall not want your Belief, when I assure you that this *Dedication* is the Result of a profound Acknowledgment, and Artless Inclination proudly Glad, and Grateful.

And if the Dialogue of the following Scenes flows with more easie Turn of Thought and Spirit, than what I have usually produc'd; I shall not yet blame some People

The Dedication
for saying to my own, unless they knew
at the same time of our gift of it to the
many stolen Observations I have made from
your Grace's manner of Converſing.
And if ever the Influence of your Grace's
more ſhining Qualities ſhould perſwade me
to attempt a *Tragedy*, I ſhall then with the
ſame Freedom, borrow all the Ornamental
Virtues of my Hero, where now only am
indebted for part of the Fine Gentleman.
Greatneſs of Birth and Mind, Sweetneſs of
Temper, flowing from the Fixt and Native
Principles of Courage and of Honours, are
Beauties that I reſerve for a further Op-
portunity of expreſſing the Zeal and Gra-
titude of

My Lord,

Your Grace's Moſt Obedient,

Moſt Oblig'd and Humble Servant,

COLLEY CIBBER

The Prologue.

O *all the Various Vices of the Age*
And Shouts of Follies Exposed upon the Stage,
How Few are last, that call for Satyr's Rage
What can you think to see our Plays so full
Of Madmen, Coxcombs and the Dismeling Fools;
Of Citts, of Sharpers, Rakes, and Raring Bullies,
Of Cheats, of Cuckolds, Aldermen, and Cullies?
Wou'd not one swear 'twere taken for a Rule,
That Satyr's Rod in the Dramatick School
Was only meant for the Incorrigible Fool?
As if too Vice and Folly were confin'd
To the Vile Scum alone of Hamane Kind.
Creatures a Muse should scorn, such abject Trash
Deserve not Satyr's but the Hangman's Lash
Wretches so far shut out from sense of shame,
Newgate, or Bedlam only should Reclaim
For Satyr ne'er was meant to make Wild Monsters Tame.
No Sirs

We rather think the Persons fit for Plays
Are they whose Birth, and Education says
They've every Help, that shou'd Improve Mankind
Tet still live Slaves to a vile Tainted Mind;
Such as in Wit are often seen & Abound,
And yet have some weak Part, where Folly's found:
For Follies sprout like Weeds, Highest in Fruitful Ground.
And 'tis Observ'd the Garden of the Mind
To no Infestive Weed's so much inclin'd
As the Rank Pride, that some from Affectation find,
A Folly too well known to make its Court
With most success among the Better sort,
Such are the Persons we to Day provide,
And Natures Fools for once are laid aside.
This is the Ground on which our Play we Build;
But in the structure must to Judgment yield;
And where the Poet Fails in Art, or Care,
We Beg your Wonted Mercy to the Player.

The

P R O L O G U E Upon the late Campaign,
Written by a Person of Quality; design'd for the Sixth
Day, but not spoken.

A Paying Nation hates the Fighting Trade,
And Lingring War in usual Methods made:
When Armies walk about from Wood to River,
And threescore Thousand only get together
To Eat, and Drink, consult, and find the way
How without fighting they may earn their Pay,
When prudent Generals get by safeguard giving,
An honest, quiet comfortable living;
But never Fight it up to a Thanksgiving
These manage War with the Physicians Skill,
And use such means, as neither Cure, nor Kill:
Like the wise Doctors, safe by their Degrees,
They give weak Doses, but take swinging Fees.
The Trade continuing, which can never end
While the sick State has anything to spend:
Thanks then to him, who strikes at the Disease,
And Bravely tries to set the World at ease:
For if such fighting last but one Year more,
Two Danube Victories will quit the score,
And soon recruit our almost Ladishet Store.
A Happy Peace regains our Treasure lost,
Our own the Glory, and our Poets the Cost.
No Favour yet the Homebred Sparks expect;
But scorn from Men, and from the Fair Neglect.
Beaux, that spend all their time in soft love-making
Those tender Souls, whose Hearts are always aking,
Shun 'em Te Fair, prevent their Am'rous Boasting,
Nor Poorly yield to Idle Talk, and Toasting.
If you have Favours, which you must bestow,
Give 'em the Soldiers they deserve to know,
Who make proud Tyrants bow, and humble you.
Minerva guides our General to Fame,
No Cruelties in War affect his Name,
Mild in the Camp, by no success made vain,

*A Gentle Goddess Animates his Mind;
 Bold for his Friends, to Conquer'd Foreign Kings
 Design'd by Heav'n for Anna's Happy Reign
 Whose generous Soul seeks only to Restrain
 Unbounded Tyranny, and lawless Might,
 Revenge Oppression, and restore the Right:
 War not her choice, but necessary Fence,
 Truth to Promote, and Humble Insolence
 Where'er her Influence flies, it Joy creates,
 And Peace, and Safety brings to Distant States:
 With such success her Chief begins his Race,
 That his First Battle Brightly does Efface
 The Tedious Labours of our Modern Wars;
 Out-does at once Old Soldiers, and the Tarrs.
 In him no sauntering in the Field wee find,
 No Doubt Remains where Victory Inclind.
 His Sword Decides-no Double Praise is given;
 Where neither side is pleas'd, yet Both thank Heaven.
 From War he quickly Kingdoms will release;
 Rapine, and Rage soon Turn to Joy, and Peace,
 And by Destruction make Destruction Cease.*

The EPILOGUE.

*Conquest and Freedom are at length our own;
 False Fears of slavery no more are shewn;
 Nor Dread of Paying Tribute to a Foreign Throne.
 All Stations now the Fruits of Conquest share,
 Except (if small with Great things may Compare)
 Th' Opprest Condition of the Lab'ring Player.
 We're still in Fears (as you of late from France)
 Of the Despotick Power of Song, and Dance:
 For while Subscription, like a Tyrant Reigns,
 Nature's Neglected, and the Stage in Chains,
 And English Actors Slaves to swell the French-mans Gains.
 Like Esop's Crow, the poor out-witted Stage,
 That liv'd on wholesome Plays i'th' latter Age,
 Deluded once to sing, ev'n justly serv'd,
 Let fall her Cheese to th' Fox's Mouth, and starv'd.
 O that your Judgement, as your Courage has
 Your Fame extended, wou'd assert Our Cause;
 That nothing English might submit to Foreign Laws.*

If we but live as for that night? Days;
 Then of the English Empire, we'll see
 As of your Empire, with your power
 So when the English Lion by the
 Had told the English Lion into
 And says that they cannot & his
 He bids him, and see himself
 In Tails of Trench runs Politics around
 Shows how how the close Heart of Gallies
 Reach the Terms for which he Years had fought
 As this the Indignant Savage roars his fury Eyes,
 Dances, the laughing at the base Surprise,
 Passes a while——But finds Delays are vain,
 Compell'd to fight, he shakes his shaggy Main;
 He grinds his dreadful Fangs, and stalks to
 There with crested Crest, and Horrid
 He Furies, Plunges on through Streets of
 And Dyes with False Bavarian Blood the Purple Danube's shore.
 In One push Battle frees the Destin'd Slaves;
 Revives Old English Honour, and an Empire saves.

The Persons.

Lord Morelove,
 Lord Foppington,
 Sir. Charles Easy,

Mr. Powel.

Mr. Libber.

Mr. Wilks.

Lady Betty Modish.

Mrs. Oldfield.

Lady Easy,

Mrs. Knight.

Lady Grave-airs,

Mrs. Moore.

Mrs. Edging, Woman to

Mrs. Lucas.

Lady Easy,

The SCENE Windsor.

THE
Careless Husband.

ACT I. SCENE I.

SCENE, Sir Charles Easy's Lodgings.

Enter Lady Easy alone.

La. Ea. **W**AS ever Woman's Spirit, by an injurious Husband, broke like mine? A vile, licentious Man! must he bring Home his Follies too? Wrong me with my very Servant! O! how Tedious a Relief is Patience! and yet in my Condition 'tis the only Remedy: For to reproach him with my Wrongs is taking on my self the Means of a Redress, bidding Defiance to his Falshood, and naturally but provokes him to undo me. Th' uneasy Thought of my continual Jealousie may teize him to a fixt Aversion; and hitherto, - tho' he neglects, I cannot think he Hates me——It must be so, since I want Power to please him, he never shall upbraid me with an Attempt of making him uneasy.——My Eyes and Tongue shall yet be blind and silent to my Wrongs, nor would I have him think my Virtue cou'd suspect him, 'till by some Gross, Apparent Proof of his Mifdoing he forces me to see,——and to forgive it.

Enter Edging hastily.

Edg. O Madam!

La. Ea. What's the Matter?

Edg. I have the strangest thing to shew your Ladyship——such a Discovery——

La. Ea. You are resolv'd to make it without much Ceremony, I find. What's the Business, pray?

Edg. The Business, Madam! I have not Patience to tell you, I am out of Breath at the very Thoughts on't, I shall not be able to wait this half Hour.

B

La. Ea.

The Careless Husband.

La. Ea. Not to the Purpose, I believe, but methinks you talk impertinently with a great deal of Ease.

Edg. Nay, Madam, perhaps not so impertinent as your Ladyship thinks; there's that will speak to the purpose, I am sure —
A Base Man — [Gives a Letter.

La. Ea. What's this, an open Letter? whence comes it?

Edg. Nay read it, Madam, you'll soon guess — If these are the Tricks of Husbands, keep me a Maid still, say I.

La. Ea. [Looking on the Superscription.] To Sir Charles Easy! Ha! Too well I know this hateful Hand — O my Heart! But I must veil my Jealousie, which 'tis not fit this Creature should suppose I am acquainted with. [Aside.] — This Direction is to your Master, how came you by it?

Edg. Why, Madam, as my Master was lying down, after he came in from Hunting, he sent me into his Dressing-Room to fetch his Snuff-Box out of his Waistcoat-Pocket, and so, as I was searching for the Box, Madam, there I found this wicked Letter from a Mistress; which I had no sooner read, but, I declare it, my very Blood rose at him again, methought I cou'd have tore him and her to pieces.

La. Ea. Intolerable! This odious Thing's jealous of him herself, and wants me to join with her in a Revenge upon him — Sure I am fallen indeed! But 'twere to make me lower yet, to let her think I understand her. [Aside.]

Edg. Nay pray, Madam, read it, you'll be out of Patience at it.

La. Ea. You are bold, Mistress; has my Indulgence, or your Master's good Humour, flatter'd you into the Assurance of reading his Letters? A Liberty I never gave my self. — Here — lay it where you had it immediately — shou'd he know of your Sauciness, 'twou'd not be my Favour cou'd protect you. [Ex. L. Easy.]

Edg. Your Favour! Marry come up! Sure I don't depend upon your Favour! — 'tis not come to that, I hope — Poor Creature — don't you think I am my Master's Mistress for nothing — you shall find, Madam, I won't be snapt up as I have been — Not but it vexes me to think she shou'd not be as uneasy as I; I am sure he's a base Man to me, and I could cry my Eyes out that she shou'd not think him as Bad to her every Jot. If I am wrong'd sure she may very well expect it, that is but his Wife — A connected Thing — she need not be so Easy neither — I am as handsome as she, I hope. — Here's my Master, — I'll try whether I am to be loved by her, or no. [Exit.]

The Careless Husband.

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Enter Sir Charles Easy.—

Sir Cha. So! the Day is come again — Life but rises to another Stage, and the same dull Journey is before us — How like Children do we judge of Happiness! When I was stinted in my Fortune almost every thing was a Pleasure to me, because most things then being out of my Reach, I had always the Pleasure of hoping for 'em; now Fortune's in my Hand she's as insipid as an old Acquaintance — It's mighty silly, Faith — Just the same thing by my Wife too; I am told she's extreamly Handsom — nay, and have heard a great many People say she is certainly the Best Woman in the World — why I don't know but she may, yet I could never find that her Person, or good Qualities, gave me any Concern — In my Eye the Woman has no more Charms than my Mother.

Edg. Humh! — he takes no Notice of me yet — I'll let him see, I can take as little Notice of him.

[She walks by him gravely, he turns her about and holds her, she struggles.]

Sir *Cha.* A pretty pert Air that—I'll humour it——What's the Matter, Child? Are not you well? Kifs me, Huffy.

Edg. No, the Duce fetch me, if I do.

Sir Cha. Has any thing put thee out of Humour, Love?

Edg. No, Sir, 'tis not worth my being out of Humour at—
tho' if ever you have any thing to do with me again I'll be Burn'd.

Sir *Cha.* Some body has bely'd me to thee.

Edg. No, Sir, 'tis you have bely'd your self to me — did not I ask you, when you first made a Fool of me, if you would be always constant to me, and did not you say I might be sure you wou'd? And herẽ, instead of that, you are going on in your old Intrigue with my Lady *Graveairs*. —

Sir Cha. So. ———

Edg.—Beside, don't you suffer my Lady to huff me every Day, as if I were her Dog, or had no more Concern with you——I declare I won't bear it, and she shan't think to huff me——for ought I know I am as Agreeable as she, and tho' she dares not take any Notice of your Baseness to Her, you shan't think to use Me so,——and so pray take your nasty Letter——I know the Hand well enough——for my part I won't stay in the Family to be abus'd at this rate; I that have refus'd Lords and Dukes for your sake: I'd have you to know, Sir, I have had as many Blue and Green Ribbons after me, for ought I know, as would have made me a

Sir Cha. My Lady Graveairs! my naffy Letter! and, I won't
 stay

stay in the Family! ——— Death! I'm in a pretty Condition ———
What an unlimited Privilege has this Jade got from being a Whore.

Edg. I suppose, Sir, you think to use every body as you do your Wife.

Sir Cha. My Wife, hah! Come hither, Mrs. *Edging*, hark you, Drab.

Edg. Oh!

[*Seizing her by the Shoulder.*

Sir Cha. When you speak of my Wife you are to say your Lady, and you are never to speak of your Lady to me in any regard of her being my Wife ——— for look you, Child, you are not Her Strumpet but Mine, therefore I only give you leave to be saucy with Me; ——— in the next place you are never to suppose there is any such Person as my Lady *Graveairs*; and lastly, my pretty one, how came you by this Letter?

Edg. It's no matter, perhaps.

Sir Cha. Ay, but if you shou'd not tell me quickly, how are you sure I won't take a great Piece of Flesh out of your Shoulder? —
My Dear.

[*Shakes her.*

Edg. O lud! O lud! I will tell you, Sir.

Sir Cha. Quickly then. ———

[*Again.*

Edg. Oh! I took it out of your Pocket, Sir.

Sir Cha. When?

Edg. Oh! this Morning, when you sent me for your Snuff-box.

Sir Cha. And your Ladyship's pretty Curiosity has look'd it over, I presume ——— ha ———

[*Again.*

Edg. O lud! dear Sir, don't be angry ——— indeed I'll never touch one again.

Sir Cha. I don't believe you will, and I'll tell you how you shall be sure you never will.

Edg. Yes, Sir.

Sir Cha. By stedfastly believing, that the next time you offer it, you will have your pretty white Neck twisted behind you.

Edg. Yes, Sir.

[*Curtensing.*

Sir Cha. And you will be sure to remember every thing I have said to you?

Edg. Yes, Sir.

Sir Cha. And now, Child, I was not angry with your Person, but your Follies, which since I find you are a little sensible of ——— don't be wholly discourag'd ——— for I believe I ——— I shall have Occasion for you again ———

Edg. Yes, Sir.

Sir Cha. In the meantime let me hear no more of your Lady, Child.

Edg. No, Sir.

Sir Cha. Here she comes, be gone.

Edg.

The Careless Husband.

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Edg. Yes, Sir—— Oh! I was never so frighten'd in my Life.

Sir Cha. So! good Discipline makes good Soldiers——[*Ex. Edg.*
it often puzzles me to think, from my own Carelessness, and my
Wife's continual good Humour, whether she really knows any
thing of the strength of my Forces——I'll sift her a little.

Enter Lady Easy.

My Dear how do you do? You are dress'd very early to Day,
are you going out?

La. Ea. Only to Church, my Dear.

Sir Cha. Is it so late then?

La. Ea. The Bell has just Rung.

Sir Cha. Well, Child, how does *Windsor* Air agree with you?
Do you find your self any Better yet? or have you a Mind to go
to *London* again?

La. Ea. No indeed, my Dear; the Air's so very pleasant, that
if it were a Place of less Company, I could be content to end my
Days here.

Sir Cha. Prithee, my Dear, what sort of Company would most
please you?

La. Ea. When Business wou'd permit it Yours, and in your
Absence a sincere Friend, that were truly happy in an honest
Husband, to sit a chearful Hour, and talk in mutual Praise of our
Condition.

Sir Cha. Are you then really very happy, my Dear?

La. Ea. Why shou'd you question it? [*Smiling on him.*

Sir Cha. Because I fancy I am not so good to you as I should be.

La. Ea. Pshah!

Sir Cha. Nay, the Duce take me if I don't really confess my
self so bad, that I have often wonder'd how any Woman of your
Sense, Rank and Person, could think it worth her while to have
so many uselefs good Qualities.

La. Ea. Fie, my Dear.

Sir Cha. By my Soul I'm serious.

La. Ea. I can't boast of my good Qualities, nor if I could do
I believe you think 'em uselefs.

Sir Cha. Nay, I submit to you——Don't you find 'em so? Do
you perceive that I am one Tittle the better Husband for your
being so good a Wife?

La. Ea. Pshah! you Jest with me.

Sir Cha. I don't really——Tell me truly, was you never jea-
lous of me?

La. Ea. Did I ever give you any sign of it?

Sir

Sir Cha. Um——that's true——but do you really think I never gave you Occasion?

La. Ea. That's an odd Question——but suppose you had?

Sir Cha. Why then, what good has your Virtue done you, since all the good Qualities of it could not keep me to your self?

La. Ea. What occasion have you given me to suppose I have Not kept you to my self?

Sir Cha. I given you Occasion——Fie! my Dear——you may be sure I——I——look you, that is not the thing, but still a——(Death! what a Blunder have I made)——a still, I say, Madam, you shan't make me believe you have never been Jealous of me, not that you ever had any real Cause, but I know Women of your Principles have more Pride than those that have no Principles at all, and where there is Pride there must be some Jealousie——so that if you are Jealous, my Dear, you know you wrong me, and——

La. Ea. Why then upon my Word, my Dear, I don't know that ever I wrong'd you that way in my Life.

Sir Cha. But suppose I had given you a real Cause to be Jealous, how would you do then?

La. Ea. It must be a very substantial one that makes me Jealous.

Sir Cha. Say it were a substantial one; suppose now I were well with a Woman of your own Acquaintance, that under pretence of frequent Visits to you, should only come to carry on an Affair with me——Suppose now my Lady *Graveairs* and I were great——

La. Ea. Wou'd I could not suppose it. [*Aside.*

Sir Cha. If I come off here I believe I am pretty safe——[*Aside.*
Suppose, I say, my Lady and I were so very familiar, that not only your self, but half the Town should see it.

La. Ea. Then I should cry my self sick in some dark Closet, and forget my Tears when you spoke kindly to me.

Sir Cha. The most convenient piece of Virtue sure, that ever Wife was Mistress of. [*Aside.*

La. Ea. But pray, my Dear, did you ever think that I had any ill Thoughts of my Lady *Graveairs*?

Sir Cha. O Fie! Child, only you know she and I us'd to be a little free sometimes, so I had a Mind to see if you thought there was any harm in it: But since I find you very easie, I think my self oblig'd to tell you, that upon my Soul, my Dear, I have so little regard to her Person, that the Duce take me, if I would not as soon have an Affair with thy own Woman.

La. Ea. Indeed, my Dear, I should as soon suspect you with

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Sir Cha. Poor Dear——shou'dst thou——give me a Kiss.

La. Ea. Pshah! you don't care to Kiss me.

Sir Cha. By my Soul I do——I wish I may die if I don't think you a very fine Woman.

La. Ea. I only wish you wou'd think me a good Wife. [*Kisses her.*] But pray, my Dear, what has made you so strangely Inquisitive?

Sir Cha. Inquisitive——Why——a——nay I don't know, one's always saying one foolish thing or another——Toll le roll. [*Sings and talks.*] My Dear, what! are we never to have any Ball here? Toll le roll. I fancy I could recover my Dancing again, if I would but Practise, Toll loll loll!

La. Ea. This Excess of Carelessness to me excuses half his Vices, if I can make him once think seriously——Time yet may be my Friend.

Enter a Servant.

Ser. Sir, my Lord Morelove gives his Service——

Sir Cha. Lord Morelove! where is he?

Ser. At the Chocolate-House; he call'd me to him as I went by, and bid me tell your Honour he'll wait upon you presently.

La. Ea. I thought you had not expected him here again this Season, my Dear.

Sir Cha. I thought so too, but you see there's no depending upon the Resolution of a Man that's in Love.

La. Ea. Is there a Chair?

Ser. Yes, Madam.

[*Ex. Servant.*]

La. Ea. I suppose Lady Betty Modish has drawn him hither.

Sir Cha. Ay, poor Soul, for all his Bravery, I am afraid so.

La. Ea. Well, my Dear, I han't time to ask my Lord how he does now; you'll excuse me to him, but I hope you'll make him Dine with us.

Sir Cha. I'll ask him; if you see Lady Betty at Prayers make her Dine too, but don't take any notice of my Lord's being in Town.

La. Ea. Very well! if I should not meet her there I'll call at her Lodgings.

Sir Cha. Do so.

[*Re-enter the Servant.*]

La. Ea. My Dear, your Servant.

[*Ex. La. Easy.*]

Sir Cha. My Dear, I'm yours. Well! one way or other this Woman will certainly bring about her Business with me at last: For tho' she can't make me happy in her own Person, she lets me be so intollerably easie with the Women that can, that she has at least brought me into a fair way of being as weary of them too.

Enter

The Careless Husband

Enter Servant and Lord Morelove.

Ser. Sir, my Lord's come.

L. Mo. Dear Charles!

Sir Cha. My dear Lord! this is an Happiness undreamt of; I little thought to have seen you at *Windsor* again this Season; I concluded of Course that Books and Solitude had secur'd you 'till Winter.

L. Mo. Nay, I did not think of coming my self, but I found my self not very well in *London*, so I thought — a — little Hunting, and this Air —

Sir Cha. Ha! ha! ha!

L. Mo. What do you laugh at?

Sir Cha. Only because you should not go on with your Story: If you did but see how fillily a Man fumbles for an Excuse, when he's a little aham'd of being in Love, you would not wonder what I laugh at; ha! ha!

L. Mo. Thou art a very happy Fellow — nothing touches thee — always Easie — Then you conclude I follow Lady *Betty* again?

Sir Cha. Yes, Faith do I, and to make you easie, my Lord, I cannot see why a Man that can ride Fifty Miles after a poor Stag, should be aham'd of running Twenty in Chace of a fine Woman, that, in all probability, will make him so much the better Sport too.

L. Mo. Dear *Charles* don't flatter my Distemper, I own I still follow her: Do you think her Charms have Power to excuse me to the World;

Sir Cha. Ay! ay! a fine Woman's an Excuse for any thing.

L. Mo. You take a great deal of Pains to give me Hope, but I can't believe she has the least degree of Inclination for me.

Sir Cha. I don't know that — I am sure her Pride likes you, and that's generally your fine Lady's Darling Passion.

L. Mo. Do you suppose if I cou'd grow indifferent it wou'd touch her?

Sir Cha. Sting her to the Heart — Will you take my Advice?

L. Mo. I have no Relief but that, had I not thee now and then to talk an Hour, my Life we insupportable,

Sir Cha. I am sorry for that, my Lord — but mind what I say to you — But hold, first let me know the Particulars of your Quarrel with her.

L. Mo. Why — about Three Weeks ago, when I was last here at *Windsor*, she had for some Days treated me with a little more Reserve, and another with more Freedom than I found my self easie at.

The Careless Husband.

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Sir Cha. Who was that other?

L. Mo. One of my Lord Foppington's Gang, the Pert Coxcomb that's just come to a small Estate, and a great Perriwig — he that Sings himself among the Women — What d'ye call him? — He won't speak to a Gentleman when a Lord's in Company — You always see him with a Cane dangling at his Button, his Breast open, no Gloves, one Eye tuck'd under his Hat, and a Tooth-pick — *Startup!* That's his Name.

Sir Cha. O! I have met him in a Visit — but pray go on.

L. Mo. So, disputing with her about the Conduct of Women, I took the Liberty to tell her how far I thought she err'd in hers; she told me I was Rude, and that she would never believe any Man could love a Woman, that thought her in the wrong in any thing she had a Mind to, at least if he dar'd to tell her so — This provok'd me into her whole Character, with as much Spite, and civil Malice, as I have seen her bestow upon a Woman of true Beauty, when the Men first Toasted her; so in the middle of my Wisdom she told me she desir'd to be Alone, that I would take my odious proud Heart along with me, and trouble her no more — I — bow'd very low, and, as I left the Room, vow'd I never wou'd, and that my proud Heart should never be humbl'd by the Outside of a fine Woman — About an Hour after I whip'd into my Chaise for *London*, and have never seen her since.

Sir Cha. Very well, and how did you find your proud Heart by that time you got to *Hounslow*?

L. Mo. I am almost asham'd to tell you — I found her so much in the right, that I curs'd my Pride for contradicting her at all, and began to think that no Woman could be in the wrong to a Man that she had in her Power.

Sir Cha. Ha! ha! well I'll tell you what you shall do. You can see her without trembling, I hope.

L. Mo. Not if she receives me well.

Sir Cha. If she receives you well you will have no occasion, for what I am going to say to you — First you shall Dine with her.

L. Mo. How! where! when!

Sir Cha. Here! here! at Two a Clock.

L. Mo. Dear Charles!

Sir Cha. My Wife's gone to invite her; when you see her first be neither too Humble, nor too Stubborn, let her see, by the ease in your Behaviour, you are still pleas'd in being near her, while you are upon reasonable Terms with You. This will either open a Door of a Disengagement, or quite shut it against you —

C

L. Mo.

L. Mo. Nay, if she insults me Then, perhaps I may recover
Pride enough to rally her by an over-acted Submission.

Sir Cha. Why you improve, my Lord, this is the very thing
I was going to propose to you.

L. Mo. Was it, Faith! Hark you, dare you stand by me.

Sir Cha. Dare I! Ay, to my last drop of Assurance, against all
the insolent Airs of the proudest Beauty in *Christendom*.

L. Mo. Nay, then Defiance to her — We Two — Thou hast
inspir'd me, I find my self as Valiant as a flatter'd Coward.

Sir Cha. Courage, my Lord — I'll warrant we beat her.

L. Mo. My Blood stirs at the very thought on't; I long to be
engag'd.

Sir Cha. She'll certainly give Ground, when she once sees you
are thoroughly provok'd.

L. Mo. Dear *Charles*, thou art a Friend indeed.

Enter a Servant.

Ser. Sir, my Lord *Foppington* gives his Service, and if your
Honour's at leisure he'll wait on you as soon as he's dress'd.

L. Mo. Lord *Foppington*! is he in Town?

Sir Cha. Yes — I heard last Night he was come. Give my
Service to his Lordship, and tell him I shall be glad he'll do me
the Honour of his Company here at Dinner. [*Ex. Ser.*] We
may have occasion for him in our Design upon Lady *Betty*.

L. Mo. What use can we make of him?

Sir Cha. We'll see when he comes, at least there's no Danger
in him, not but I suppose you know he's your Rival.

L. Mo. Pshaw! a Coxcomb.

Sir Cha. Nay, don't despise him neither — He's able to give
you Advice; for tho' he's in Love with the same Woman, yet to
him she has not Charms enough to give a Minutes Pain.

L. Mo. Prithee! what Sense has he of Love?

Sir Cha. Faith very near as much as a Man of Sense ought to
have, I grant you he knows not how to value a Woman truly de-
serving, but he has a pretty just Esteem for most Ladies about
Town.

L. Mo. That he follows, I grant you — for he seldom visits
any of Extraordinary Reputation.

Sir Cha. Have a Care, I have seen him at Lady *Betty Modish's*.

L. Mo. To be laugh'd at.

Sir Cha. Don't be too confident of that, the Women now be-
gin to laugh with him, not at him. For he really sometimes rai-
ses his own Follies with so much Wit and Manners, that

great many Women begin to think he has no Follies at all, and those he has have been as much owing to his Youth, and a great Estate, as want of natural Wit: 'Tis true, he's often a Bubble to his Pleasures, but he has always been wisely vain enough to keep himself from being too much the Ladies Humble Servant in Love.

L. Mo. There indeed I almost envy him.

Sir Cha. The Easiness of his Opinion upon the Sex will go near to pique you — We must have him.

L. Mo. As you please — but what shall we do with our selves till Dinner!

Sir Cha. What think you of a Party at Picquet?

L. Mo. O! you are too hard for me.

Sir Cha. Fie! fie! what when you play with his Grace.

L. Mo. Upon my Soul, he gives me Three Points.

Sir Cha. Does he? Why then you shall give me but Two — Here, Fellow, get Cards. Allons! — [Exeunt.]

A C T II. S C E N E I.

The Scene Lady Betty Modish's Lodgings.

Enter Lady Betty, and Lady Easy, meeting.

La. Bet. O H! my Dear! I am overjoy'd to see you! I am strangely Happy to Day; I have just receiv'd my New Scarf from London, and you are most Critically come to give me your Opinion of it.

La. Ea. O! your Servant, Madam; I am a very indifferent Judge, you know: What, is it with Sleeves?

La. Bet. O 'tis impossible to tell you what it is! — 'Tis all Extravagance both in Mode and Fancy, my Dear I believe there's Six Thousand Yards of Edging in it — Then such an Enchanting Slope from the Elbow — something so New, so Lively, so Noble, so Coquet and Charming — but you shall see it, my Dear —

La. Ea. Indeed I won't, my Dear; I am resolv'd to mortifie you for being so wrongly fond of a Trifle.

La. Bet. Nay now, my Dear, you are ill-natur'd.

La. Ea. Why truly, I am half angry to see a Woman of your Sense, so warmly concern'd in the Care of her Outside; for when we have taken our best Pains about it, 'tis the Beauty of the Mind alone that gives us Lasting Value.

La. Bet. Ah! my Dear, my Dear! you have been a married Woman to a fine Purpose indeed, that know so little of the Taste of Mankind: Take my Word, a new Fashion upon a fine Woman is often a greater Proof of her Value, than you are aware of.

La. Ea. That I can't comprehend, for you see among the Men nothing's more ridiculous than a new Fashion, those of the first Sense are always the last that come into 'em.

La. Bet. That is, because the only Merit of a Man is his Sense, but doubtless the greatest Value of a Woman is her Beauty; an homely Woman at the Head of a Fashion would not be allow'd in it by the Men, and consequently not follow'd by the Women: So that to be successful in ones Fancy is an evident sign of ones being admir'd, and I always take Admiration for the best Proof of Beauty, and Beauty certainly is the Source of Power, as Power in all Creatures is the Heighth of Happiness.

La. Ea. At this rate you wou'd rather be thought Beautiful than Good?

La. Bet. As I had rather Command, than Obey: The wisest homely Woman can't make a Man of Sense of a Fool, but the veriest Fool of a Beauty shall make an Ass of a Statesman; so that in short I can't see a Woman of Spirit has any Business in this World, but to Dress——and make the Men like her.

La. Ea. Do you suppose this is a Principle the Men of Sense will admire you for?

La. Bet. I do suppose, that when I suffer any Man to like my Person he sha'nt dare to find Fault with my Principle.

La. Ea. But Men of Sense are not so easily humbled.

La. Bet. The easiest of any; one has Ten Thousand times the Trouble with a Coxcomb.

La. Ea. Nay, that may be; for I have seen you throw away more good Humour in hopes of a *Tendresse* from my Lord *Fopington*, who loves all Women alike, than wou'd have made my Lord *Morelove* perfectly happy, who loves only you.

La. Bet. The Men of Sense, my Dear, make the best Fools in the World, their Sincerity and good Breeding throws 'em so intirely into ones Power, and gives one such an agreeable Thirst of using 'em ill, to Shew that Power——'tis impossible not to quench it.

La. Ea. But methinks my Lord *Morelove's* Manner to You might move any Woman to a kinder sense of his Merit.

La. Bet. Ay! but wou'd it not be hard, my Dear, for a poor weak Woman to have a Man of his Quality and Reputation in her Power, and not to let the World see him there? Wou'd any Cre-

ture fit New dress'd all Day in her Closet? Cou'd you bear to have a sweet-fancy'd Suit, and never shew it at the Play or the Drawing-Room?

La. Ea. But one wou'd not ride in't methinks, or harass it out, when there's no occasion.

La. Bet. Pooh! my Lord *Morelove's* a meer *Indian* Damask, one can't wear him out; o' my Conscience I must give him to my Woman at last, I begin to be known by him: Had not I best leave him off, my Dear? for (poor Soul) I believe I have a little Fretted him of late.

La. Ea. Now 'tis to me Amazing, how a Man of his Spirit can bear to be us'd like a Dog for Four or Five Years together—— but Nothing's a Wonder in Love; yet pray, when you found you cou'd not like him at first why did you ever encourage him?

La. Bet. Why, what wou'd you have one do? for my part I cou'd no more chuse a Man by my Eye than a Shoe, one must draw 'em on a little to see if they are right to ones Foot.

La. Ea. But I'd no more fool on with a Man I cou'd not like, than I'd wear a Shoe that pinch'd me.

La. Bet. Ay but then a poor Wretch tells one he'll widen 'em, or do any thing, and is so civil and silly, that one does not know how to turn such a Trifle, as a Pair of Shoes, or an Heart, upon a Fellow's Hands again.

La. Ea. Well! I confes you are very happily distinguish'd among most Women of Fortune, to have a Man of my Lord *Morelove's* Sense and Quality so long and Honourably in love with you: For now a Days one hardly ever hears of such a Thing as a Man of Quality in love with the Woman he wou'd marry: To be in Love now is only having a Design upon a Woman, a modish way of declaring War against her Virtue, which they generally attack first, by Toasting up her Vanity.

La. Bet. Ay, but the World knows that is not the Case between my Lord and me.

La. Ea. Therefore I think you happy.

La. Bet. Now I don't see it, I'll swear I'm better pleas'd to know there are a great many foolish Fellows of Quality that take occasion to toast me frequently.

La. Ea. I vow I shou'd not thank any Gentleman for toasting me, and I have often wonder'd how a Woman of your Spirit cou'd bear a great many other Freedoms I have seen some Men take with you.

La. Mo. As how, my Dear—— come, prithee be Free with me, for you must know I love dearly to hear my Faults—— Who is't you have observ'd to be too free with me?

La. Ea.

La. Ea. Why, there's my Lord Foppington: Could any Woman but You bear to see him with a respectful Fleece stare full in her Face, draw up his Breath, and cry — Gad, you're handsom.

La. Bet. My Dear — fine Fruit will have Flies about it, but, poor things, they do it no Harm: For, if you observe, People are always most apt to chuse that, that the Flies have been busie with, ha! ha!

La. Ea. Thou art a strange giddy Creature.

La. Bet. That may be, from so much Circulation of Thought, my Dear.

La. Ea. But my Lord Foppington's married, and one wou'd not fool with him for his Lady's sake; it may make her uneasie, and —

La. Bet. Poor Creature, her Pride indeed makes her carry it off without taking any Notice of it to me, tho' I know she hates me in her Heart, and I can't endure malicious People, so I us'd to dine there once a Week purely to give her Disorder; if you had but seen her when my Lord and I fool'd a little, the Creature look'd so Ugly.

La. Ea. But I shou'd not think my Reputation safe, my Lord Foppington's a Man that talks often of his Amours, but seldom speaks of Favours that are refus'd him.

La. Bet. Pishah! will any thing a Man says make a Woman less agreeable? Will his Talking spoil ones Complexion, or put ones Hair out of order? And for Reputation — look you, my Dear, take it for a Rule, that as amongst the lower Rank of People no Woman wants Beauty that has Fortune, so amongst People of Fortune no Woman wants Virtue that has Beauty: But an Estate and Beauty join'd is of an unlimited — nay a Power Pontifical, makes one not only Absolute, but Infalible — A fine Woman's never in the Wrong, or if we were, 'tis not the Strength of a poor Creature's Reason that can unfetter him — O! how I love to hear a Wretch curse himself for loving on, or now and then coming out with a —

“ Yet, for the Plague of Human Race,

“ This Devil has an Angel's Face.

La. Ea. At this rate, I don't see you allow Reputation to be at all Essential to a Fine Woman.

La. Bet. Just as much as Honour to a Great Man: Power always is above Scandal: Don't you hear People say, the King of France owes most of his Conquests to Breaking his Word? and wou'd not the Confederates have a fine time on't, if they were only to go to War with Reproaches? Indeed, my Dear, that

Jewel

Jewel Reputation is but a very fanciful Business; One shall not see an Homely Creature in Town but wears it in her Mouth, as monstrously as the *Indians* do Bobs at their Lips, and it really becomes 'em just alike.

La. Ea. Have a care, my Dear, of being too eagerly Fond of Power: For nothing is more ridiculous than the Fall of Pride, and Woman's Pride at best may be suspected to be more a Distrust, than a Real Contempt of Mankind: For when we have said all we can, a Deserving Husband is certainly our best Happiness; and I don't question but my Lord *Morelove's* Merit in a little time will make you think so to; for whatever Airs you give your self to the World, I am sure your Heart don't want good Nature.

La. Bet. You are mistaken, I am very ill-natur'd, tho' your good Humour won't let you see it.

La. Ea. Then, to give me a Proof on't, let me see you refuse to go immediately and dine with me, after I have promis'd *Sir Charles* to bring you.

La. Bet. Pray don't ask me.

La. Ea. Why?

La. Bet. Because, to let you see I hate good Nature, I'll go without Asking, that you may n't have the Malice to say I did you a Favour.

La. Ea. Thou art a mad Creature. [*Exeunt.*]

The SCENE changes to Sir Charles's Lodgings, Lord Morelove and Sir Charles at Picquet.

Sir Cha. Come, my Lord, one single Game for the Tout, and so have done.

L. Mo. No, hang 'em, I have enough of 'em: Ill Cards are the dullest Company in the World——How much is it?

Sir Cha. Three Parties.

L. Mo. Fifteen Pound——very well.

[While L. Mo. counts out his Money a Servant gives Sir Cha. a Letter, which he reads to himself.]

Sir Cha. *[To the Servant.]* Give my Service, say I have Company dines with with me, if I have time I'll call there in the Afternoon——ha! ha! ha! [*Ex. Serv.*]

L. Mo. What's the Matter?

Sir Cha. The Old Affair——my Lady *Graveairs*.

L. Mo. O! prithee how does that go forward?——here——

Sir Cha. As agreeably as a Chancery Suit: For now it's come to the point of my not being able to get rid of it, as you may

The Careless Husband.

L. Mo. [Reads] "Your Behaviour since I came to Windsor
 "has convinced me of your Villany without my being sur-
 "prised or angry at it. I desire you would let me see you
 "at my Lodgings immediately, where I shall have a better
 "Opportunity to satisfy you than I ever can, or Pos-
 "sibly will be, as I have been. Yours."

A very Whimsical Letter! Faith, I think she has hard luck with
 you; if a Man were oblig'd to have a Mistress, her Person and
 Condition seem to be cut out for the Ease of a Lover: For she's
 a Young, Handsome, Wild, Well-jointed Widow — But what's
 your Quarrel?

Sir Cha. Nothing — she sees the Coolness happens to be first of my
 side, and her Business with me now, I suppose, is to convince me, how
 Heartily she's vex'd, that she was not before Hand with me.

L. Mo. Her Pride, and your Indifference must occasion a Pleasant
 Scene sure; what do you intend to do?

Sir Cha. Treat her with a Cool Familiar Air, 'till I pique her to
 forbid me her sight; and then take her at her Word.

L. Mo. Very Gallant and Provoking. [Enter a Servant.]

Ser. Sir, my Lord Foppington's come. [Exit.]

Sir Cha. O — now, my Lord, if you have a Mind to be let in-
 to the Mystery of making Love without Pain, here's one that's a
 Master of the Art, and shall declaim to you — My Dear

Enter Lord Foppington.

Lord Foppington!

L. Fop. My Dear Agreeable! *Que Je t'embrasse! Pardi! Il y a
 Cent Ans, que Je ne T'ay veu* — my Lord, I am your
 Lordship's most Obedient Humble Servant.

L. Mo. My Lord, I kiss your Hands — I hope we shall have
 you here some time; you seem to have laid in Stock of Health to
 be in at the Diversions of the Place — You look extremely well.

L. Fop. To see ones Friends look so, my Lord, may easily give a
 Verve to ones Complexion.

Sir Cha. Lovers in Hope, my Lord, always have a visible Bril-
 lant in their Eyes and Air!

L. Fop. What dost thou mean, Charles?

Sir Cha. Good, commonly, Lord, — what really brought
 you to Windsor — say you have some Business here.

L. Fop. I have some, I say Sir, of the Best Nags in Chri-
 stendom, or the Devil Drive me.

L. Mo. My Lord, I am your

well Kept indeed — I love to have Creatures go as I bid 'em: You have seen 'em, *Charles*, but so has all the World — *Fop-pington's* Long-Tails are known in every Road in *England*.

Sir Cha. Well, my Lord, but how came they to bring you this Road? You don't use to take these Irregular Jaunts without some Design in your Head of having more than Nothing to do.

L. Fop. Pshaw! prithee Pax! *Charles*, thou know'st I am a Fellow *sans Consequence*, be where I will.

Sir Cha. Nay, nay, we must have it — come, come, your Real Business here?

L. Fop. Why then, *Entre Nous*, there is a certain *Fille de Joye* About the Court here that loves Winning at Cards better than all the Fine Things I have been Able to say to her, so I have brought an Odd Thousand Pound Bill in my Pocket, that I design *Tete à Tete* to play off with her at Picquet, and now the Business is out.

Sir Cha. Ah! and a very Good Business too, my Lord.

L. Fop. If it be well done, *Charles*.

Sir Cha. That's as you Menage your Cards, my Lord.

L. Mo. This must be a Woman of some Consequence, by the Value you set upon her Favours.

Sir Cha. Pshaw! Nothing's above the Price of a Fine Woman.

L. Fop. Nay look you, Gentlemen, the Price may not happen to be altogether so High neither: For, all this while, I fancy I know enough of the Game to make it but an even Bet, that I get her for Nothing.

L. Mo. How so, my Lord.

L. Fop. Because, if she Happens to lose a Good Sum to Me, I shall Buy her with her own Mony.

L. Mo. That's New, I confess.

L. Fop. You know, *Charles*, 'tis not Impossible but I may be Five Hundred Pound Deep with her, then Bills may fall short, and the Devil's in't if I want Assurance to ask her to Pay me some Way, or other.

Sir Cha. And a Man must be a Churl indeed that won't take a Lady's Personal Security, hah! hah! ha!

L. Fop. Heh! heh! heh! thou art a Devil, *Charles*.

L. Mo. Death! how happy is this Coxcomb? [*Aside.*]

L. Fop. But to tell you the Truth, Gentlemen, I had another pressing Temptation, that brought me hither, which was — my Wife.

L. Mo. That's Kind indeed, my Lady has been here this Fort-night, she'll be Glad to see you.

L. Fop. That I don't know, for I design this Afternoon to send

L. Mo. What! the same Day you Come, my Lord? That wou'd be Cruel.

L. Fop. Ay, but it will be mighty Convenient, for she is positively of no manner of Use in my Amours.

L. Mo. That's your Fault, the Town thinks her a very Deserving Woman.

L. Fop. If she were a Woman of the Town, perhaps I shou'd think so too: But she happens to be my Wife, and when a Wife is once given to deserye more than her Husband can Pay, in my Mind she has no Merit at all.

L. Mo. She's extreamly well bred, and of a very Prudent Conduct.

L. Fop. Um——ay, the Woman's Proud enough,

L. Mo. And to This, all the World allows her Handsom.

L. Fop. The World's very Civil, my Lord; and I should take it as a Favour done to me, if they cou'd find an Expedient to unmarry the Poor Woman from the only Man in the World that can't think her Handsom.

L. Mo. I believe there are a Great many in the World that are sorry 'tis not in their Power to Unmarry her.

L. Fop. I am a Great many in the World's very Humble Servant, and whenever they find 'tis in their Power, their High and Mighty Wisdoms may command me at a Quarter of an hour's Warning.

L. Mo. Pray, my Lord, what did you marry for?

L. Fop. To pay my Debts at Play, and disinherit my Younger Brother.

L. Mo. But there are some Things due to a Wife.

L. Fop. And there are some Debts I don't care to pay——to both which I plead Husband, and my Lord.

L. Mo. If I shou'd do so, I shou'd expect to have my own Coach stopt in the Street, and to meet my Wife with the Windows up in a Hackny.

L. Fop. Then wou'd I put in Bail, and order a separate Maintenance.

L. Mo. So pay Double the Sum of the Debt, and be Married for Nothing.

L. Fop. Now I think Deferring a Dun, and getting Rid of ones Wife, are Two the most Agreeable Sweets in the Liberties of an *English* Subject.

L. Mo. If I were married I wou'd as soon part from my Estate, as my Wife.

L. Mo. Now I wou'd not, Sun-burn me if I wou'd.

L. Mo. Death! my Lord, but since you are thus indifferent, why wou'd you needs marry a Woman of so much Merit? Cou'd not you have laid out your Spleen upon some ill-natur'd Shrew, that wanted the Plague of an ill Husband, and have let Her alone to

some Plain, Honest Man of Quality that wou'd have deserv'd her?

L. Fop. Why faith, my Lord, that might have been consider'd, but I really grew Passionately Fond of her Fortune, that, Curse catch me, I was quite Blind to the rest of her Good Qualities: For to tell you the Truth, if it were possible the Old Futt of a Peer cou'd have toss'd her into t'other Five Thousand Pound, for 'em, by my Consent, she shou'd have relinquish't her Merit and Virtues to any of her Younger Sisters.

Sir Cha. Ay, ay, my Lord, Virtues in a Wife are Good for nothing but to make her Proud, and put the World in Mind of her Husband's Faults.

L. Fop. Right, *Charles*: And strike me Blind, but the Women of Virtue are now grown such Ideots in Love, They expect of a Man, just as they do of a Coach-horse, that One's Appetite, like t'other's Flesh, shou'd increase by Feeding.

Sir Cha. Right, my Lord, and don't consider that *Toutjours Chapons Bouillies* will never do with an *English* Stomach.

L. Fop. Ha! ha! ha! To tell you the Truth, *Charles*, I have known so much of that sort of Eating, that I now think, for an Hearty Meal, no Wild-Fowl in *Europe* is Comparable to a Joint of *Banstead* Mutton.

L. Mo. How do you mean?

L. Fop. Why, that for my Part, I had rather have a Plain Slice of my Wife's Woman, than my Guts full of e'er an Ortolan Dutchess in Christendom.

L. Mo. But I thought, my Lord, your Business now at *Windsor* had been your Design upon a Woman of Quality.

L. Fop. That's true, my Lord, tho' I don't think your Fine Lady the Best Dish my self, yet a Man of Quality can't be without such Things at his Table.

L. Mo. O! then you only desire the Reputation of Having an Affair with her?

L. Fop. I think the Reputation is the most Inviting Part of an Amour with most Women of Quality.

L. Mo. Why so, my Lord?

L. Fop. Why who the Devil wou'd run thro' all the Degrees of Form and Ceremony, that lead one up to the last Favour, if it were not for the Reputation of Understanding the Nearest Way to get over the Difficulty?

L. Mo. But, my Lord, since the World sees you make so little of the Difficulty, does not the Reputation of your being too General an Undertaker frighten the Women from Engaging with you? For they say
 can love but One at a time.

The Careless Husband.

L. *Fop*. That's just One more than ever I came up to: For, flap my Breath, if ever I lov'd One in my life.

L. *Mo*. How do you get 'em then?

L. *Fop*. Why sometimes as they get other People I dress, and let them get me: Or, if that won't do, as I get my Title, I buy 'em.

L. *Mo*. But how can you, that Profound Indifference, think it worth your while to come so often up to the Price of a Woman of Quality?

L. *Fop*. Because you must know, my Lord, that most of 'em begin Now to come down to Reason, I mean, those that are to be had, for some die Fools: But with the Wiser sort, 'tis not of late

so very Expensive, now and then a *Partie Quarree*, a Jaunt of two in an Hack to an *Indian House*, a little *China*, an Odd Thing for a Gown, or so, and in Three Days after you meet her at the Convenience of Trying it on *Chez Mademoiselle D'Epingle*.

Sir *Cha*. Ay, ay, my Lord, and when you are there, you know, what between a little Chat, a Dish of Tea, Mademoiselle's Good Humour, and a *Petit Chanson*, or two; the Devil's in't if a Man can't fool away the Time, till he sees how it looks upon her by Candle-light, ha! ha!

L. *Fop*. Heh! heh! well said, *Charles*, I gad I fancy thee and I have unlac'd many a Reputation there. Your Great Dady is as soon undrest as her Woman, ha! ha!

L. *Mo*. I cou'd never find it so; the Shame, or Scandal of a Repulse, always made me afraid of Attempting a Woman of Condition.

Sir *Cha*. Ha! ha! I gad, my Lord, you deserve to be ill Us'd, your Modesty's enough to Spoil any Woman in the World: but my Lord and I understand the Sex a little better, we see plainly that Women are only Cold, as some Men are Brave, from the Modesty or Fear of those that attack 'em.

L. *Fop*. Right, *Charles*, a Man shou'd no more give up his Heart to a Woman, than his Sword to a Bully. They are Both as Insignificant as the Devil after it.

Sir *Cha*. How do you like that, my Lord?

L. *Mo*. Faith, I envy him. But, my Lord, suppose your Inclination shou'd Stumble upon a Woman truly Virtuous, wou'd not a Formal Repulse from such an One put you strangely out of Countenance?

L. *Fop*. Not at all, my Lord, for if a Man don't mind a Box on the Ear in a fair Struggle with a French Country Girl, why the Devil shou'd he be concern'd at an Imperious Frown for an Attack upon a Woman of Quality?

L. *Mo*. Then you have no Notion of a lady's Cruelty?

L. Fop. Ha! ha! let me Blood, if I think there's a greater Jest in Nature. I am ready to Crack my Guts with laughing to see a senseless Flirt, because the Creature happens to, have a little Pride that she calls Virtue about her, give her self all the Insolent Airs of Reluctance and Ensign to an Honest Fellow, that all the while does not care three Pinches of Snuff, if me and her Virtue were to run with their last Favours through the First Regiment of Guards. Ha! ha! it puts me in Mind of an Affair of mine, so Impertinent.

L. Mo. O! that's impossible, my Lord, pray let's hear it.

L. Fop. Why I happen'd once to be well in a certain Man of Quality's Family, and his Wife lik'd me.

L. Mo. How do you know she lik'd you?

L. Fop. Why, from the very Moment I told her I lik'd her, she never durst trust her self at the End of the Room with me.

L. Mo. That might be her not liking you.

L. Fop. My Lord — Women of Quality don't use to speak the thing plain — but to satisfy you, that I did not want Encouragement, I never came there in my Life, that she did not immediately Smile, and Borrow my Snuff-Box.

L. Mo. She lik'd your Snuff, at least — Well, but how did she use you?

L. Fop. By all that's infamous she Jilted me.

L. Mo. How! Mr. you?

L. Fop. Ay, Death's Curse, she Jilted me.

L. Mo. Pray let's hear.

L. Fop. For when I was pretty well convinc'd she had a Mind to me, I one Day made her a Hint of an Appointment; upon which, with an Insolent Frown in her Face (that made her look as Ugly as the Devil) she told me, that if ever I came thither again, her Lord should know that she had forbidden me the House before; ha! ha! Did you ever hear of such a Slut?

L. Mo. Intolerable!

L. Mo. But how did her Answer agree with you?

L. Fop. Passionately well — For I star'd full in her Face, and Bull'd out laughing, at which she turn'd upon her Heel, gave a Crack with her Fan like a Coach-whip, and Bridled out of the Room with the Air and Complexion of an Incens'd Turkey-Cock.

L. Mo. What did you then?

L. Fop. I — I look'd after her, Cap'd, threw up the Sash, and fall a Singing out of the Window, so that you see, my Lord, while a Man is not in Love, there's no great Affliction in Missing

— say to a Woman.

Sir

The Careless Husband

Sir Cha. Ay, ay, you talk this very werry, my Lord, but now let's see how you dare behave your self upon Action — Dinner's serv'd, and the Ladies stay for us — There's one within, that has been too Hard for as Brisk a Man as your self.

L. Mo. I know whom you mean — Have a Care, my Lord, she'll prove your Courage for you.

L. Pop. Will she! then she's an Undone Creature! For let me tell you, Gentlemen, Courage is the whole Mystery of Love, and of more Use than Conduct is in War; for the Bravest Fellow in *Europe* may beat his Brains out against the stubborn Walls of a Town — But

“Women, Born to be Controll'd,

“Stoop to the Forward, and the Bold.”

[*Exeunt*]

A C T III.

The Scene Continues.

Enter Lord Morelove and Sir Charles.

L. Mo. **S**O! Did not I bear up bravely?

Sir Cha. Admirably! with the Best bred Insolence in Nature, you insulted like a Woman of Quality, when her Country-Bred Husband's Jealous of her in the wrong Place.

L. Mo. Ha! ha! Did you Observe, when I first came into the Room, how carelessly she Brush'd her Eyes over me, and when the Company saluted me, stood all the while with her Face to the Window? ha! ha!

Sir Cha. What Astonish'd Airs she gave her self, when you ask'd her what made her so grave upon her Old Friends?

L. Mo. And when ever I offer'd any thing in talk, what Affected Care she took to Direct her Observations of it to a third Person?

Sir Cha. I observ'd she did not Eat above the Rump of a Pidgeon all Dinner Time.

L. Mo. And how she Colour'd when I told her her Ladyship had lost her Stomach.

Sir Cha. If you keep your Temper she's Undone.

L. Mo. Provided she sticks to her Trade, I believe I may.

Sir Cha. Ah! never fear her, I warrant in the Humour she is in, she would as soon part with her Sense of Feeling.

L. Mo. Well! what's to be done next?

Sir Cha. Only observe her Motions, for by her Behaviour at Dinner, I am sure she designs to Gall you with my Lord *Foppington*, if so you must even stand her Fire, and then Play my Lady *Graveairs* upon her, whom I'll immediately Pique, and prepare for your Purpose.

L. Mo. I understand you — the Properest Woman in the World too, for she'll certainly Encourage the least Offer from me, in hopes of Revenging her late Slights upon you.

Sir Cha. Right, and the very Encouragement she gives you, at the same time will give me a Pretence to Widen the Breach of my Quarrel to her.

L. Mo. Besides, *Charles*, I own I am fond of any Attempt that will forward a Misunderstanding there, for your Lady's sake: A Woman so truly Good in her Nature, ought to have something more from a Man, than bare Occasions to Prove her Goodness.

Sir Cha. Why then upon Honour, my Lord, to give you a Proof that I am Positively the Best Husband in the World, my Wife — never yet found me out.

L. Mo. That may be her being the Best Wife in the World: She, may be, won't find you out.

Sir Cha. Nay, if she won't tell a Man of his Faults, when she sees 'em, how the Duce should he mend 'em? But however you see I am going to leave 'em off as fast as I can.

L. Mo. Being tir'd of a Woman is indeed a pretty tolerable Assurance of a Man's not designing to Fool on with her — Here she comes, and, if I don't mistake, Brim full of Reproaches — You can't take her in a better Time — I'll leave you.

Enter Lady Graveairs.

L. Mo. Your Ladyship's most Humble Servant, is the Company Broke up, pray?

La. Gra. No, my Lord, they were just talking of Basset, my Lord *Foppington* has a Mind to Tally, if your Lordship would encourage the Table.

L. Mo. O Madam, with all my Heart! But *Sir Charles*, I know, is hard to be got to it, I'll leave your Ladyship to prevail with him.

[Exit Lord Morelove.]

[Sir Charles and Lady Graveairs salute Coldly, and Trifle some time before they speak.]

La. Gra. *Sir Charles*, I sent you a Note this Morning —

Sir Cha. Yes, Madam, but there were some Passages I did not expect from your Ladyship, you seem'd to Tax me with things that —

La. Gra. Look you, Sir, 'tis not at all Material, whether I tax'd you

Sir Cha. Hold, Madam.

In short, Sir Charles, I have taken a great

Sir Cha: Nay, Madam, but I shall stay here, however, you ought to
 stay till I have got it in my Head too, and then, if we
 must part —

La. Gra. O mighty well, Sirs the very good water at last come to a Right Understanding the only way I have long wish'd for; not but I'd have you to know I feel your Deeds more than all this Pained Ease of a Signation: I know you'd give your Eyes to make me I thank you.

you Uneasie if it want in my Love, I will not
 La. Geo. O dear, I shall not be able to live without my
 Word, and I shall not be able to live without my
 dear, I shall not be able to live without my
 Servant. Not but you shall be my dear, I shall
 Thought of you too, that I shall not be able to live without my
 [Exit *Hastily*.]

Sir Cbe. O your very humble servant, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
What a Charming Quality is a Good Taste!

La. Gra. O! I have been playing the Fool yonder even to Contempt, my Gentle's Jealousie has confest a Weakness I never shall forgive myself — She has Insulted on it to that Degree too, I can't bear the Thought — O! O! O! this Devilish Mistress of my Heart, and I could almost think how grossly too I've let her know it —

Sir Cha. What's the matter now? —

L. Mo. I have been playing the Fool yonder even to Contempt, my Gentle's Jealousie has confest a Weakness I never shall forgive myself — She has Insulted on it to that Degree too, I can't bear the Thought — O! O! O! this Devilish Mistress of my Heart, and I could almost think how grossly too I've let her know it —

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La. Gra. A Dun! Do you take me for a Dun, Sir? Do I come Dunning you? —

Sir Cha. Don't expose yourself — Here's Company.

La. Gra. I care not — A Dun! — You shall see, Sir, I can Revenge an Affront, and I despise the Wretch that offers it — A Dun; O! I could die with laughing at the Fancy.

Sir Cha. Sir, I have in Admirable Order — Here comes my Lord, and I'm afraid in the very Nick of his Occasion for her.

Enter Lord Morelove.

L. Mo. O Charles! Undone again! all's Lost and Ruin'd!

Sir Cha. What's the matter now? —

L. Mo. I have been playing the Fool yonder even to Contempt, my Gentle's Jealousie has confest a Weakness I never shall forgive myself — She has Insulted on it to that Degree too, I can't bear the Thought — O! O! O! this Devilish Mistress of my Heart, and I could almost think how grossly too I've let her know it —

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position, and when a Lady can do me the Honour to Tell that
 she is a Lady, I shall be as good as a Lady myself.

La. Bet. Why, ay, my Lord, that's some Good Humour in
 that now.

L. Mo. He's Happy in a Fine English Stomach, Madam, — I
 could recommend a Dish that's perfectly good to your Ladyship's Good
 where Beauty is the only Sauce to it.

La. Bet. So! *[Aside.]*

L. Mo. My Lord, when my Wife's Right I never care it should
 be eaten, a Fine Woman, like a Fine Oyster, needs no Sauce
 but her own.

L. Mo. I know some Ladies would thank you for that Opinion.

La. Bet. My Lord, Mortimer's really grown such a Churl to the
 Women. I don't only think he is Not, but can't Conceive how
 he ever could be in Love.

L. Mo. Upon my Word, Madam, I once thought I was. *[Smiling.]*

La. Bet. Fie! fie! how could you think so? I fancy now you
 had only a Mind to Domineer over some poor Creature, and so
 you thought you were in love, ha! ha!

L. Mo. The Lady I lov'd, Madam, grew so Unfortunate in her
 Conduct, that she at last brought me to Treat her with the same
 Indifference and Civility as I now Pay your Ladyship.

La. Bet. And Ten to One, Just at that time she never thought
 you such tolerable Company, ha! ha!

L. Mo. That I can't say, Madam, for at that time she grew so Af-
 fected, there was no Judging of her Thoughts at all.

[Mimicking her Manner.]

La. Bet. What, and so you left the Poor Lady? O you Incon-
 stant Creature!

L. Mo. No, Madam, to have Lov'd her on had been Incon-
 stancy, for she was never Two Hours together the same Woman.

[La. Bet. and L. Mo. seem to talk.]

L. Mo. *[Aside.]* Ha! ha! he has a Mind to abuse me, I find so
 they give him an Opportunity of doing his Business with her at once.

for ever — My Lord, I perceive your Lordship's going to do Good
 Company to the Lady, and for her sake, I don't think it Good
 Warnings in me to Disturb it.

Enter Sir Charles.

Sir Cha. My Lord, I have just now made such Discoveries —

L. Mo. O Charles! I was just Wandering — Hark then! I have
 just now made such Discoveries —

Sir Cha. One Word — I have just now made such Discoveries —
 Sir

THE RIVAL LIPS

Enter Sir Charles and Lady Elizabeth
Sir Cha. O! Keep in while the Scots lye, and let's your wife
my Lordship.

L. Elizabeth. I have lost Five Hundred to her at Picquet since Dinner.
and when once I throw off my Inclination, I shall be a
'till the Game has Enough on't, and between thee and I, I shall
well blown too, she can't stand long, I believe. For God's catch
me, if I have not rid down half a Thousand.

Sir Cha. What do you mean?
L. Elizabeth. I have lost Five Hundred to her at Picquet since Dinner.
Sir Cha. You are a Fortunate Man faith—you are resoly'd not
to be thrown out.

L. Elizabeth. Hang it! What shou'd a Man come out for, if he does
not keep up to the Sport?

Sir Cha. Well Puss, my Lord.
L. Elizabeth. Tere! Have as her.

Sir Cha. Down! down, my Lord—ah—were Hanches.
L. Elizabeth. Ah! Charles, [Embracing him] Prithce let's Observe a
little, there's a Foolish Cuz, now I have run her to a Stand, has a
Mind to be as her by himself, and thou shalt see she won't stir out
of her Way for him.

L. Elizabeth. Ha! ha! Your Ladyship's very Grave of a sudden you
look as if your Lover had Insolently recover'd his Common
Senses.

L. Elizabeth. And your Lordship is so very Gay, and Unlike your
self, one would swear you were Just Come from the Pleasure of
making your Mistress afraid of You.

L. Elizabeth. No faith, quite Contrary: For do you know, Madam,
I have just found out, that upon your Account I have made my
self One of the most Ridiculous Puppies upon the Face of the Earth,
I have upon my Faith—nay and so Extravagantly such—ha! ha!
ha! that what but to give a Job's eye to my self, and I can't help
laughing at it for the rest of my Days. I have just found out, that
upon your Account I have made my self One of the most Ridiculous
Puppies upon the Face of the Earth, I have upon my Faith—nay and so
Extravagantly such—ha! ha! ha! that what but to give a Job's eye to
my self, and I can't help laughing at it for the rest of my Days.

The Careless Husband.

33

Ld Mo. O by all means, Madam, I will do it, and I expect it whenever it is in your power. — Confusion!

L. Bett. My Lord, you have talk'd to me this half Hour, without confessing Pain. [Pauses and affects to Gape.] I only remember it.

Ld Mo. Hell and Tortures! —

L. Bett. What did you say, my Lord?

Ld Mo. Fire, and Furies!

L. Bett. Ha! ha! he's Disorder'd. — Now I am Easie. — My Lord, have you a mind to your Revenge at Picquet?

Ld Mo. I have always a mind to an opportunity of entertaining your Ladyship, Madam.

Ld Mo. Charles — The Insolence of this Woman might furnish out a thousand Devils.

Sir Cha. And your Temper is enough to furnish out a thousand such Women. Come away — I have Business for you upon the Terrace.

Ld Mo. Let me but speak one word to her —

Sir Cha. Not a Syllable — the Tongue's a Weapon you'll always have the worst at: For I see you have no Guard, and she carries a Devilish Edge.

L. Bett. My Lord, don't let any thing I've said frighten you away; for if you have the least Inclination to stay, and Rail, you know the old Conditions; 'tis but your asking me Pardon next Day, and you may give your Passion any liberty you think fit.

Ld Mo. Daggers and Death!

Sir Cha. Are you Mad?

Ld Mo. Let me speak to her now or I shall burst —

Sir Cha. Upon Condition you'll speak no more of her to me, my Lord, do as you please.

Ld Mo. Prithee Pardon me — I know not what to do.

Sir Cha. Come along — I'll set you to work I warrant you — Nay, nay, none of your parting Ogles. — Will you go?

Ld Mo. Yes, — and I hope — for ever.

[Exit Sir Cha. pulling away Ld. Mo.]

Ld Mo. Ha! ha! ha! Did ever Mortal Monster set up for a Lover with such unfortunate Qualifications.

L. Bett. Indeed, my Lord Morelove has something strangely singular in his manner.

Ld Mo. I thought I should have burst to see the Creature pretend to Rancour, and give himself the Airs of one of Us. But, run me through Madam, your Ladyship push'd like a fencing-Master; that last thrust was a Coup de Grace I believe. — I'm afraid his

Honour will hardly meet your Ladyship in haste again.

L. Bett. Not unless his Second Sir *Charles* keeps him better in Practice, perhaps. Well, the Humour of this Creature has done me signal Service to day, I must keep it up for fear of a second Engagement.

Ld Fop. Never was poor Wit so foil'd at his own Weapon sure.

L. Bett. Wit! Had he ever any Pretence to it?

Ld Fop. Ha! ha! he has not much in Love, I think, tho' he wears the Reputation of a very pretty young Fellow, among some sort of People; but strike me stupid, if ever I could discover Common Sense in all the Progress of his Amours: He expects a Woman shou'd like him for endeavouring to convince her, that she has not one good Quality belonging to the whole Composition of her Soul and Body.

L. Bett. That, I suppose, is only in a modest Hope, that she'll mend her Faults to qualifie her self for his vast Merit, ha! ha!

Ld Fop. Poor *Morelove*! I see she can't endure him. [*Aside.*]

L. Bett. Or if one really had all those Faults, he does not consider, that Sincerity in Love is as much out of Fashion as sweet Snuff; No Body takes it now.

Ld Fop. O! no Mortal, Madam, unless it be here and there a Squire, that's making his lawful Court to the Cherry-cheek Charms of my Lord Bishop's great fat Daughter in the Country.

L. Bett. O what a surfeiting Couple has he put together —

[*Throwing her hand carelessly upon his.*]

Ld Fop. Fond of me, by all that's tender — Poor Fool, I'll give thee Ease immediately. [*Aside.*] — But, Madam, you were pleas'd just now to offer me my Revenge at *Picquet* — Now here's no Body within, and I think we can't make use of a better Opportunity.

L. Bett. O! no: Not now, my Lord! I have a Favour I wou'd fain beg of you first.

Ld Fop. But time, Madam, is very precious at this Place, and I shall not easily forgive my self, if I don't take him by the Forelock —

L. Bett. But I have a great mind to have a little more Sport with my Lord *Morelove* first, and wou'd fain beg your Assistance.

Ld Fop. O! withal my Heart; and, upon second thoughts, I don't know but piquing a Rival in Publick may be as good Sport, as being well with a Mistress in private: For after all, the Pleasure of a fine Woman is like that of her own Vertue, not so much in the thing, as the Reputation of having it [*Aside.*] — But how, Madam, can I serve you in this Affair?

L. Bett.

L. Bett. Why methought, as my Lord *Morelove* went out, he shew'd a stern Resentment in his look, that seem'd to threaten me with Rebellion, and downright Defiance: Now I have a great Fancy, that you and I shou'd follow him to the *Terrace*, and laugh at his Resolution before he has time to put it in Practice.

Ld Fop. And so punish his Fault before he commits it! ha! ha! ha!

L. Bett. Nay, we won't give him time, if his Courage shou'd fail to repent it.

Ld Fop. Ha! ha! let me Blood, if I don't long to be at it! ha! ha!

L. Bett. O! 'twill be such Diversion to see him bite his Lips, and broil within, only with seeing us ready to split our sides in laughing at nothing, ha! ha!

Ld Fop. Ha! ha! I see the Creature does really like me. [*Aside.*] And then, Madam, to hear him hum a broken Piece of a Tune in Affectation of his not minding us — 'twill be so foolish when we know he loves us to Death all the while, ha! ha!

L. Bett. And if at last his sage Mouth shou'd open in surly Contradiction of our Humour, then will we, in pure opposition to his, immediately fall foul upon every thing that is not Gallant, and Fashionable; Constancy shall be the Mark of Age and Ugliness, Vertue a Jest, we'll rally Discretion out of Doors, lay Gravity at our Feet, and only Love, Free Love, Disorder, Liberty and Pleasure be our standing Principles.

Ld Fop. Madam, you transport me: For if ever I was obliged to Nature for any one tolerable Qualification, 'twas positively the Talent of being Exuberantly pleasant upon this Subject — I am impatient — my Fancy's upon the Wing already — let's fly to him.

L. Bett. No, stay till I am just got out, our going together won't be so proper.

Ld Fop. As your Ladyship pleases, Madam — But when this Affair is over, you won't forget that I have a certain Revenge due.

L. Bett. Ay! ay! after Supper I am for you — Nay, you shan't stir a step, my Lord — [*Seeing her to the Door.*]

Ld Fop. Only to tell you, you have fix'd me yours to the last Existence of my Soul's eternal Entity —

L. Bett. O, your Servant —

[*Exit L. Betty.*]

Ld Fop. Ha! ha! stark mad for me, by all that's Handsome! Poor *Morelove*: That a Fellow who has ever been abroad, shou'd think a Woman of her Spirit is to be taken as the Confederates do Towns, by a Regular Siege, when so many of the *French* Successes might have shewn

him the surest way is to whisper the Governor: How can a Coxcomb give himself the Fatigue of Bombarding a Woman's Understanding, when he may with so much ease make a Friend of her Constitution— I'll see, if I can shew him a little *French Play* with Lady *Betty* — let me see — Ay — I'll make an end of it the old way, get her into Picquet at her own Lodgings — not mind one Tittle of my Play, give her every Game before she's half up, that she may judge the strength of my Inclination by my hast of losing up to her Price; then of a sudden, with a familiar Leer, cry — *Rat Picquet* — sweep Counters, Cards, and Money upon the Floor, & *donc* — *L'Affaire est Faite.* [Exit.

The End of the Third ACT.

ACT IV.

The Scene the Terrace.

Enter Lady Easy and Lady Betty.

L. Ea. **M**Y Dear, you really talk to me as if I were your Lover, and not your Friend; or else I am so dull, that by all you've said I can't make the least Guess at your real Thoughts — Can you be serious for a Moment?

L. Bett. Not easily: But I would do more to oblige you.

L. Ea. Then pray deal ingeniously, and tell me without Reserve, are you sure you don't love my Lord *Morelove*?

L. Bett. Then seriously — I think not — but because I won't be positive, you shall judge by the worst of my Symptoms — First, I own I like his Conversation, his Person has neither Fault, nor Beauty — well enough, I don't remember I ever secretly wisht my self married to him, or that I ever seriously resolv'd against it.

L. Ea. Well! so far you are tolerably safe: But come, as to his manner of addressing to you, what Effect has that had?

L. Bett. Humh [*Smiling*] I am not a little pleas'd to observe few Men follow a Woman with the same Fatigue and Spirit, that he does me; am more pleas'd when he lets me use him ill; and if ever I have a favourable Thought of him, 'tis when I see he can't bear that Usage.

L. Ea.

L. Ea. Have a Care, that last is a dangerous Sympton : He pleases your Pride, I find.

L. Bett. Oh ! perfectly, in that I own no Mortal ever can come up to him.

L. Ea. But now, my Dear ! now comes the main Point — Jealousie ! are you sure you have never been toucht with it ? Tell me that with a safe Conscience, and then I pronounce you clear.

L. Bett. Nay, then I defie him ; for positively I was never jealous in my Life.

L. Ea. How, Madam ! have you never been stirr'd enough to think a Woman strangely forward for being a little familiar in Talk with him ? or are you sure his Gallantry to another never gave you the least Disorder ? Was you never, upon no Accident, in an Apprehension of losing him ?

L. Bett. Hay — Why, Madam — Bless me ! — wh, wh — why sure you don't call this Jealousie, my Dear ?

L. Ea. Nay, nay, that is not the Business ; Have you ever felt any thing of this Nature, Madam ?

L. Bett. Lord ! don't be so hasty, my Dear — any thing of this Nature — O Lu'd ! I swear I don't like it : Dear Creature bring me off here ; I am half frighted out of my Wits.

L. Ea. Nay, if you can railly upon't, your Wound is not over deep I'm afraid.

L. Bett. Well, that's comfortably said however.

L. Ea. But come, to the Point ! how far have you been jealous ?

L. Bett. Why — O bless me ! — he gave the Musick one night to my Lady *Languish* here upon the *Terrace* ; and tho' she and I were very good Friends, I remember I cou'd not speak to her in a week for't — Oh !

L. Ea. Nay, now you may laugh if you can ; for, take my word, the Marks are upon you — but come what else ?

L. Bett. O nothing else upon my word, my Dear.

L. Ea. Well, one Word more, and then I proceed to Sentence : Suppose you were heartily convinced, that he actually follow'd another Woman ?

L. Bett. But pray, my Dear, what Occasion is there to suppose any such thing at all ?

L. Ea. Guilty upon my Honour.

L. Bett. Pfhah ! I defie him to say, that ever I own'd any Inclination for him.

L. Ea. But you have given him Terrible leave to guess it.

L. Bett. If ever you see us meet again, you'll have but little Reason to think so, I can assure you.

L. Ea. That I shall see presently ; for here comes Sir Charles, and I am sure my Lord can't be far off.

Enter Sir Charles.

Sir Cha. Servant Lady Betty — My dear, how do you do ?

L. Ea. At your Service, my Dear — But 'pray' what have you done with my Lord Morelove ?

L. Bett. Ay, Sir Charles, pray how does your Pupil do ? Have you any hopes of him ? Is he Docible ?

Sir Cha. Well, Madam, to confess your Triumph over me, as well as him. I own my hopes of him are lost. I offer'd what I cou'd to his Instruction, but he's incorrigibly yours, and undone — and the news, I presume, does not displease your Ladyship.

L. Betty. Fy, fy, Sir Charles, you disparage your Friend, I am afraid you don't take Pains with him.

Sir Cha. Ha ! I fancy, Lady Betty, your good Nature wont let you sleep a Nights ? Don't you love dearly to hurt People ?

L. Bett. O ! your Servant then without a Jest, the Man is so unfortunate in his want of Patience, that let me die, if I don't often pity him.

Sir Cha. Strange Goodness — O that I were your Lover for a Month or two.

L. Bett. What then ?

Sir Cha. I wou'd make that pretty Heart's Blood of yours Ake in a Fortnight.

L. Bett. Auh ! I shou'd hate you, your Assurance wou'd make your Address intolerable.

Sir Cha. I believe it wou'd, for I'd never Address to you at all.

L. Bett. O ! you Clown you ! *[Hitting him with her Fan.]*

Sir Cha. Why, what to do ? to feed a diseas'd Pride, that's Eternally breaking out in the Affectation of an ill Nature that — in my Conscience I believe is but Affectation.

L. Bett. You, nor your Friends have no great reason to complain of my Fondness I believe. Ha ! ha ! ha !

Sir Cha. *[Looking earnestly on her.]* Thou insolent Creature ! How can you make a Jest of a Man, whose whole Life's but one continued Torment from your want of common Gratitude ?

L. Bett. Torment ! for my part I really believe him as easie as you are.

Sir Cha. Poor Intolerable Affectation ! You know the contrary, you know him blindly yours, you know your Power, and the whole pleasure

pleasure of your Life's the poor and low abuse of it.

L. Bett. Pray how do I abuse it? — If I have any Power:

Sir Cha. You drive him to Extreame that make him Mad, then punish him for acting against his Reason: You've almost turn'd his Brain, his common Judgment fails him; he's now, at this very Moment, driven by his Despair upon a Project, in hopes to free him from your Power, that I am sensible, and so must any one be, that has his sense, of course must ruine him with you, for ever: I almost blush to think of it, yet your unreasonable Dildain has forc'd him to it; and shou'd he now suspect I offer'd but a hint of it to you, as in contempt of his Design, I know he'd call my Life to answer it: But I have no regard to Men in Madness, I rather chose for once to trust in your good Nature, in hopes the Man, whom your Unwary Beauty had made Miserable, your Generosity wou'd scorn to make Ridiculous.

L. Bett. *Sir Charles*, you charge me very home, I never had it in my Inclination to make any thing ridiculous that did not deserve it. Pray, what is this Business you think so Extravagant in him?

Sir Cha. Something so absurdly Rash and Bold, you'll hardly forgive ev'n me that tell it you.

L. Bett. O fie! If it be a fault, *Sir Charles*, I shall consider it as His, not Yours. Pray, what is it?

L. Ea. I long to know-methinks.

Sir Cha. You may be sure he did not want my Disswasions from it.

L. Bett. Let's hear it.

Sir Cha. Why this Man, whom I have known to love you with such Excess of Generous Desire, whom I have heard in his Extatick Praises on your Beauty talk, till from the soft Heat of his distilling Thoughts the Tears have fall'n.

L. Bett. O! *Sir Charles* —

[*Blushing.*

Sir Cha. Nay, grudge not, since 'tis past, to hear what was (tho' you contemn'd it) once his Merit: but now I own, that Merit ought to be forgotten.

L. Bett. Pray, Sir, be plain.

Sir Cha. This Man, I say, whose unhappy Passion has so ill succeeded with you, at last has forfeited all his Hopes (into which, pardon me, I confess my Friendship had lately flatter'd him) his Hopes of ev'n deserving now your lowest Pity or Regard.

L. Bett. You amaze me — For I can't suppose his utmost Malice dares assault my Reputation — and what —

Sir Cha. No, but he Maliciously presumes the World will do it for him; and indeed he has taken no unlikely means to make 'em
buse

busie with their Tongues: For he is this Minute upon the open Terrace, in the highest Publick Gallantry with my Lady *Graveairs*. And to convince the World and me, he said, he was not that Tame Lover we fancied him, he'd venture to give her the Musick to Night: Nay, I heard him, before my Face, speak to one of the Hoboys, to Engage the rest, and desir'd they wou'd all take their Directions only from my Lady *Graveairs*.

L. Bett. My Lady *Graveairs*! Truly I think my Lord's very much in the Right on't — for my part, Sir *Charles*, I don't see any thing in this, that's so very ridiculous, nor indeed that ought to make me think either the better or the worse of him for't.

Sir Cha. Pshah! Pshah! Madam, You, and — I know, 'tis not in his Power to renounce you; this is but the poor Disguise of a resenting Passion vainly ruffled to a Storm, which the least gentle look from you can reconcile at will, and laugh into a Calm again.

L. Bett. Indeed, Sir *Charles*, I shan't give my self that Trouble, I believe.

Sir Cha. So I told him, Madam; Are not all your Complaints, said I, already owing to her Pride, and can you suppose this publick Defiance of it (which you know you can't make good too) won't incense her more against you? — That's what I'd have, said he, starting wildly, I care not what becomes of me, so I but live to see her piqued at it.

L. Bett. Upon my word, I fancy my Lord will find himself mistaken, — I shan't be piqued, I believe — I must first have a Value for the Thing I lose, before it piques me: Piqued! ha! ha! ha!

[*Disorder'd.*

Sir Cha. Madam, you've said the very Thing I urg'd to him; I know her Temper so well, said I, that tho' she doated on you, if you once stood out against her, she'd sooner burst, than shew the least distant Motion of Uneasiness.

L. Bett. I can assure you, Sir *Charles*, my Lord won't find himself Deceiv'd in your Opinion — Piqued!

Sir Cha. She has it!

[*Aside.*

L. Ea. Alas, poor Woman! how little do our Passions make us?

L. Bett. Not, but I wou'd advise him to have a little Regard to my Reputation in this Business, I wou'd have him take heed of Publickly Affronting me.

Sir Cha. Right, Madam, that's what I strictly warn'd him of, for among Friends, whenever the World sees him follow another Woman, the Malicious Tea-Tables will be very apt to be free with your Ladyship.

L. Bett.

L. Bett. I'd have him Consider that, methinks.

Sir Cha. But alas! Madam, 'tis not in his Power to Think with Reason, his mad Resentment has destroy'd ev'n his Principles of Common Honesty: He considers nothing but a senseless Proud Revenge, which in this Fit of Lunacy, 'tis Impossible that either Threats or Dangers can Disswade him from.

L. Bett. What! does he defie me, Threaten me! — then he shall see, that I have Passions too, and know, as well as he, to stir my Heart 'gainst any Pride that Dares Insult me. Does he suppose I fear him? Fear the little Malice of a slighted Passion, that my own Scorn has stung to a despis'd Resentment! Fear him! O! it provokes me to think he Dares have such a Thought!

L. Ea. Dear Creature, don't Disorder your self so.

L. Bett. Let me but live to see him once more within my Power, and I'll forgive the Rest of Fortune. *[Walking disorder'd.]*

L. Ea. *[Aside.]* Well! certainly I am very Ill-natur'd; for tho' I I see this News has disturb'd my Friend, I can't help being pleas'd with any Hopes of my Lady *Graveairs* being otherwise Dispos'd of — My Dear I am afraid you have provokt her a little too far.

Sir Cha. 'Pshah! not at all — You shall see — I'll sweeten her, and she'll cool like a Dish of Tea.

L. Bett. I may see him with his Complaining Face again —

Sir Cha. I am sorry, Madam, you so wrongly judge of what I've told you; I was in Hopes to have stirr'd your Pity, not your Anger; I little thought your Generosity wou'd punish him for Faults, which you your self resolv'd he shou'd Commit — Yonder he comes, and all the World with him: Might I advise you, Madam, you shou'd not Resent this Thing at all — I wou'd not so much as stay to see him in his Fault; nay, I'd be the last that Heard of it: Nothing can sting him more, or so Justly Punish his Folly, as your Utter Neglect of it.

L. Ea. Come, Dear Creature, be Persuaded, and go home with me; indeed it will shew more Indifferent to avoid him.

L. Bett. No, Madam, I'll Oblige his Vanity for once, and stay to let him see how strangely he has Piqued me.

Sir Cha. *[Aside.]* O not at all to speak of; you had as good part with a little of that Pride of yours, or I shall yet make it a very Troublesome Companion to you.

[Goes from them, and whispers Lord More.]

Enter. Lord Foppington; and a little after, Lord Morelove, Lady Graveairs, and other Ladies.

Ld Fop. Ladies, your Servant — O! we have wanted you beyond Reparation — such Diversion!

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L. Bett. Well! my Lord! have you seen my Lord *Morelove*?
Ld Fop. Seen him! — ha! ha! ha! — I have such things
 to tell you, Madam — you'll Die —

L. Bett. O 'Pray' let's have 'em, for I was never in a better Hu-
 mour to receive them.

Ld Fop. Hark you.

Ld Mo. So, she's engag'd already.

Sir Cha. So much the better; make but a just Advantage of my
 Success, and she's Undone.

Ld Fop.] Ha! ha! ha!
L. Bett.]

Sir Cha. You see already what ridiculous Pains she's taking to stir
 your Jealousie and Cover her own.

Ld Fop.] Ha! ha! ha!

L. Bett.]

Ld Mo. O never fear me; for, upon my word, it now appears
 Ridiculous ev'n to me.

Sir Cha. And Hark you —

L. Bett. Ha! ha! and so the Widow was as full of Airs, as his
 Lordship.

Sir Cha. Only observe that, and 'tis impossible you can fail. [*A-*
Ld Mo. Dear *Charles*, You have convinc'd me, and I thank you. *side.*

L. Gra. My Lord *Morelove*, What do you leave us?

Ld Mo. Ten thousand Pardons, Madam, I was but Just —

L. Gra. Nay, nay, no Excuses, my Lord, so you will but let us
 have you again.

Sir Cha. [*Aside to L. Gra.*] I see you have Good Humour, Ma-
 dam, when you like your Company.

L. Gra. And You, I see, for all your mighty Thirst of Domini-
 on, cou'd stoop to be Obedient, if one thought it worth one's while
 to make you so! Ha! Ha!

Sir Cha. Hah! Power would make her an admirable Tyrant.

L. Es. [*Observing Sir Cha. and L. Gra. & c.*] So! there's another
 Couple have Quarrell'd too, I see — Those Airs to my Lord *More-*
love look, as if Design'd to recover *Sir Charles* into Jealousie: I'll
 Endeavour to Joyn the Company, and, it may be, that will let me
 into the Secret.

My Lord *Foppington*, I vow this is very Uncomplaisant to Engross
 so Agreeable a Part of the Company to your self.

Sir Cha. Nay, my Lord, that is not fair indeed to Enter into Se-
 crets among Friends — Ladies! what say you? I think we ought
 to Declare against it.

Ladies. O! no Secrets, no Secrets.

L. Bett. Well, Ladies, I ought only to ask your Pardon: My Lord's excusable, for I would haul him into a Corner.

Ld Fop. I swear it's very Hard ho! I observe two People of Extream Condition can no sooner Grow Particular, but the Multitude of Both Sexes are Immediately Up, and think their Properties invaded—

L. Bett. Odious Multitude —

Ld Fop. Perish that *Canaille*.

L. Gra. O, my Lord, we Women have all Reason to be jealous of Lady Betty Modish's Power.

Ld Mo. [To *L. Betty*.] As the Men, Madam, All have of my Lord *Foppington*; beside Favourites of great Merit Discourage those of an inferior Class for their Princes Service: He has already lost you one of your Retinue, Madam.

L. Bett. Not at all, my Lord, he has only made Room for another: One must sometimes make Vacancies, or there could be no Preferment.

Ld Fop. Ha! ha! Ladies Favours, my Lord, like Places at Court, are not always held for life you know.

L. Bett. No, indeed! if they were, the Poor fine Women would be all us'd like their Wives; and no more minded than the Business of the Nation.

L. Ea. Have a Care, Madam, an Undeserving Favourite has been the Ruine of Many a Prince's Empire.

Ld Fop. Upon my Soul, Lady *Betty*, we must grow more Discreet; for positively if we go on at this Rate, we shall have the World throw you under the Scandal of Constancy, and I shall have all the Swords of Condition at my Throat for a Monopolist.

L. Mo. O! there's no such Fear of that, my Lord, tho' the Men of Sense give it over, there will be always some Idle Fellows vain enough to believe their Merit may succeed as well as your Lordships.

L. Bett. Or, if they shou'd not, my Lord, cast Lovers, you know, need not fear being long out of Employment, while there are so many well Dispos'd People in the World — There are generally Neglected Wives, stale Maids, or Charitable Widows, always ready to relieve the Necessities of a Disappointed Passion — and, by the way, Hark you, Sir *Charles*.

Ld Mo. [Aside.] So! she is stirr'd, I see; for all her Pains to Hide it — she would hardly have glanc'd an Affront at a Woman, she was not Piqued at.

L. Gra. [Aside.] That Wit was thrown at me, I suppose; but I'll return it.

L. Bett. [*Softly to Sir Cha.*] Pray how came you all this While to Trust your Mistress so Easily?

Sir Cha. One is not so Apt, Madam, to be allarm'd at the liberties of an Old Acquaintance, as perhaps your Ladyship ought to be at the Resentment of an Hard-us'd, Honourable Lover.

L. Bett. Suppose I were allarm'd, how does that make you easie?

Sir Cha. Come, come, be wise at last; my trusting them together may easily convince you, that (as I told you before) I know his Addresses to her are only Outward, and 'twill be your Fault Now, if you let him go on till the World thinks him in Earnest; and a thousand Busy Tongues are set upon Malicious Enquiries into your Reputation.

L. Bett. Why, Sir Charles, do you suppose while he behaves himself as he does, that I wont Convince him of my Indifference?

Sir Cha. But — Hear me, Madam.

L. Gra. [*Aside.*] The Air of that Whisper looks, as if the Lady had a mind to be making her Peace again; and, 'tis Possible, his Worship's being so Busy in the Matter too, may proceed as much from his Jealousie of my Lord with me, as Friendship to her, at least I Fancy so; therefore I'm resolv'd to keep her still Piqued and prevent it, tho' it be only to Gall Him. — Sir Charles, that is not fair to take a Privilege, that you just now declar'd against in my Lord Foppington.

Ld. Mo. Well observ'd, Madam.

L. Gra. Beside it looks so Affected to whisper, when every Body guesses the Secret.

L. Mo. Ha! ha! ha!

L. Bett. O! Madam, your Pardon in Particular: But 'tis possible you may be mistaken: The Secrets of People that have any Regard to their Actions are not so soon Guess'd, as theirs that have made a Confident of the whole Town.

Ld Fop. Ha! ha! ha!

L. Gra. A Coquette in her affected Airs of Disdain to a Revolted Lover, I'm afraid must exceed your Ladyship in Prudence, not to let the World see at the same time she'd give her Eyes to make her Peace with him: ha! ha!

Ld Mo. Ha! ha! ha!

L. Bett. 'Twould be a Mortification indeed, if it were in the Power of a Fading Widow's Charms to prevent it; and the Man must be Miserably reduc'd sure, that cou'd bear to live Buried in Woollen, or take up with the Motherly Comforts of a Swan-skin Petticoat. Ha! ha!

Ld. Fop. Ha! ha! ha!

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L. Gra. Widows, it seems, are not so squeamish to their Interest, they know their own Minds, and take the Man they-like, tho' it happens to be one, that a Froward vain Girl has disoblig'd, and is Pining to be Friends with.

Ld Mo. Nay, tho' it happens to be one, that confesses he once was fond of a piece of Folly, and afterwards asham'd on't.

L. Bett. Nay, my Lord, there's no standing against two of you.

Ld Fop. No Faith, that's odds at Tennis my Lord : Not but if your Ladyship pleases I'll endeavour to keep your Back hand a little : Tho', upon my Soul, you may safely set me up at the Line ; for, knock me down, if ever I saw a Rest of Wit better Play'd, than that last in my Life. — What say you, Madam, shall we engage ?

L. Bett. As you please, my Lord.

Ld Fop. Ha ! ha ! ha ! *Allons. Tout de Bon, Joues mi lor.*

Ld Mo. O Pardon me, Sir, I shall never think my self in any thing a Match for the Lady.

Ld Fop. To you, Madam.

L. Bett. That's much, my Lord, when the World knows you have been so many Years teasing me to play the Fool with you.

Ld Fop. Ah ! *Bien Joué.*

Ld Mo. At that Game I confess your Ladyship has chosen a much properer Person to improve your Hand with.

Ld Fop. To me, Madam, — My Lord, I presume whoever the Lady thinks fit to play the Fool with, will at least be able to give as much Envy as the Wise Person that had not Wit enough to keep well with her when he was so.

L. Gra. O ! my Lord ! Both Parties must needs be greatly happy, for I dare swear neither will have any Rivals to disturb 'em.

Ld Mo. Ha ! ha !

L. Bett. None that will disturb 'em, I dare swear.

Ld Fop. Ha ! ha ! ha !

Ld Mo. }

L. Gra. { Ha ! ha ! ha !

L. Bett. }

Sir Cha. I don't know, Gentlefolks — but you are all in extream good Humour methinks, I hope there's none of it Affected.

L. Ea. I shou'd be loath to answer for any but my Lord Foppington. [Aside..

L. Ea. Mine is not, I'll swear.

Ld Mo. Nor mine, I'm sure.

L. Gr. Mine's sincere, depend upon't.

Ld Fop. And may the Eternal Frowns of the whole Sex Doubly Demme, if mine is not. L. Ea.

L. Ea. Well, good People, I am mighty glad to hear it. You have all perform'd extreamly well : But if you please you shall ev'n give over your Wit now, while it is well.

L. Bett. [*To her self.*] Now I see his Humour I'll stand it out, if I were sure to die for't.

Sir Cha. You shou'd not have proceeded so far with my Lord Foppington, after what I had told you. [*Aside to Lady Betty.*]

L. Bett. Pray, Sir Charles, give me leave to understand my self a little.

Sir Cha. Your Pardon, Madam, I thought a right understanding wou'd have been for both your Interests, and Reputation.

L. Bett. For His perhaps.

Sir Cha. Nay, then, Madam, it's time for me to take care of my Friend.

L. Bett. I never in the least doubted your Friendship to him in any thing that was to shew your self my Enemy.

Sir Cha. Since I see, Madam, you have so ungrateful a sence of my Lord Morelove's Merit, and my Service, I shall Never be asham'd of using my Power henceforth to keep him intirely out of your Ladyship's. [*Goes from her.*]

L. Bett. Was ever any thing so Insolent, I cou'd find in my Heart to run the hazard of a downright Compliance, if it were only to convince him, that my Power, perhaps, is not inferior to His. [*To her self.*]

L. Ea. My Lord Foppington, I think you generally lead the Company upon these Occasions. Pray will you think of some Prettier sort of Diversion for us, than Parties and Whispers.

Ld Fop. What say you, Ladies, shall we step and see what's done at the Basset-Table.

L. Bett. Withal my Heart, Lady Easy —

L. Ea. I think 'tis the best thing we can do, and because we won't part to Night, you shall all Sup where you Din'd — What say you, my Lord?

Ld Mo. Your Ladyship may be sure of me, Madam.

Ld Fop. Ay! ay! we'll all come.

L. Ea. Then pray let's change Parties a little. My Lord Foppington, you shall Squire me.

Ld Fop. O! you do me Honour, Madam.

L. Bett. My Lord Morelove, pray let me speak with you.

Ld Mo. Me, Madam?

L. Bett. If you please, my Lord.

Ld Mo. Ha! that look thro'through me? What can this mean?

[*Aside.*]

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L. Bett. This is no proper Place to tell you what it is : But there is one thing I'd fain be truly answer'd in : I suppose you'll be at my Lady *Esfy's* by and by ; and if you'll give me leave there—

Ld Mo. If you please to do me that Honour, Madam, I shall certainly be there.

L. Bett. That's all, my Lord.

Ld Mo. Is not your Ladyship for Walking ?

L. Bett. If your Lordship dare venture with me.

L. Mo. O ! Madam ! [*Taking her Hand.*] How my Heart Dances, what Heavenly Musick's in her Voice, when softned into Kindness.

[*Aside.*

L. Bett. Ha ! his Hand trembles — Sir *Charles* may be mistaken.

L. Fop. My Lady *Graveairs*, you wont let Sir *Charles* leave us.

L. Gra. No, my Lord, we'll follow you—stay a little [*To Sir Cha.*

Sir Cha. I thought your Ladyship design'd to follow 'em.

L. Gra. Perhaps I'd speak with you.

Sir Cha. But, Madam, consider we shall certainly be observ'd.

L. Gra. Lord, Sir ! If you think it such a Favour. [*Ex. hastily.*

Sir Cha. Is she gone ? let her go, &c. [*Exit Singing.*

The End of the Fourth Act.

ACT. V.

The Scene continues.

Enter Sir Charles and Lord Morelove.

Sir Cha. Come a little this way — my Lady *Graveairs* had an Eye upon me, as I stole off, and I'm apprehensive will make use of any opportunity to talk with me.

L. Mo. O ! we are pretty safe here — well ! you were speaking of *L. Betty*.

Sir Cha. Ay my Lord, — I say, notwithstanding all this sudden change of her Behaviour, I wou'd not have you yet be too secure of her : For, between you and I, since, as I told you, I have profess'd my self an open Enemy to her Power with You, 'tis not impossible but this new Air of good Humour may very much proceed from a little Woman's Pride, of convincing Me you are not yet Out of her Power.

Ld Mo. Not unlikely : But still can we make no advantage of it ?

Sir Cha. That's what I have been thinking of — look you — Death ! my Lady *Graveairs* !

Ld

Ld. Mo. Hah! She will have Audience I find.

Sir Cha. There's no avoiding her — The Truth is, I have ow'd her a little Good Nature a great while, — I see there is but one way of getting rid of her — I must ev'n appoint her a Day of Payment at last. If you'll step into my Lodgings, my Lord, I'll just give her an Answer, and be with you in a Moment.

Ld Mo. Very well, I'll stay there for you. [*Ex. Lord Morelove.*

Enter L. Graveairs on the other side.

L. Gra. Sir Charles!

Sir Cha. Come, come, no more of these Reproachful Looks, you'll find, Madam, I have deserv'd better of you than your Jealousy imagines — Is it a Fault to be tender of your Reputation? — fie, fie, — This may be a proper time to Talk, and of my Contriving too, — you see I just now shook off my Lord *Morelove* on purpose.

L. Gra. May I believe you?

Sir Cha. Still doubting my Fidelity, and mistaking my Discretion for want of Good Nature.

L. Gra. Don't think me Troublesome — For I confess 'tis Death to think of parting with you: Since the World sees, for you I have neglected Friends and Reputation, have stood the little Insults of Disdainful Prudes, that envy'd me perhaps your Friendship; have born the Freezing Looks of Near and General Acquaintance — Since this is so, don't let 'em Ridicule me too, and say my Foolish Vanity undid me; don't let 'em point at me as a Cast Mistress.

Sir Cha. You Wrong me to suppose the Thought, you'll have better of me when we meet: When shall you be at leisure?

L. Gra. I confess, I wou'd see you once again, if what I have more to say prove Ineffectual, perhaps it may convince me then, 'tis my Interest to part with you — Can you come to Night?

Sir Cha. You know we have Company, and I'm afraid they'll stay too late: Can't it be before Supper? What's a Clock now?

L. Gra. It's almost Six.

Sir Cha. At Seven then be sure of me; till when, I'd have you go back to the Ladies to avoid Suspicion, and about that time — Have the Vapours.

L. Gra. May I depend upon you? —

[*Exit L. Gra.*

Sir Cha. Depend on every thing — A very Troublesome Business This — send me once fairly rid on't — if ever I'm caught in an *Honourable* Affair again! — A Debt now, that a little ready Civility, and away, would satisfy, a Man might Bear with; but to have a Rent-Charge upon ones good Nature, with an unconscionable long Scroll of Arrears too, that wou'd eat out the Profits of the best

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best Estate in *Christendom* — ah! Intollerable! Well! I'll ev'n to my Lord, and shake off the Thoughts on't. [Exit.]

Enter Lady Betty, and Lady Easy.

L. Bett. I observe, my Dear, you have Usually this great Fortune at Play, it were enough to make one suspect your good luck with an Husband.

L. Ea. Truly — I don't complain of my Fortune either way.

L. Bett. Prithee tell me, You are often advising me to it, are there those real Comfortable Advantages in Marriage, that our Old Aunts, and Grand-mothers wou'd persuade us of?

L. Ea. Upon my word, if I had the Worst Husband in the World, I shou'd still think so.

L. Bett. Ay, but then the Hazard of Having a good one, my Dear.

L. Ea. You may have a Good one, I dare say, if you don't give Airs till you spoil him.

L. Bett. Can there be the same, Dear, full Delight in giving Ease, as Pain? O! my Dear, the Thought of Parting with ones Power is Insupportable!

L. Ea. And the keeping it, till it dwindles into no Power at all, is most Ruffully Foolish.

L. Bett. But still to marry before One's Heartily in love —

L. Ea. Is not half so Formidable a Calamity — but if I have any Eyes, my Dear, you'll run no great Hazard of that, in Venturing upon my Lord *Morelove* — You don't know, perhaps, that within this half hour, the Tone of your Voice is strangely soften'd to him, ha! ha! ha! ha!

L. Bett. My Dear, you are positively, one or other, the most Cenforious Creature in the World; and so, I see, it's in vain to talk with you — 'Pray' will you go back to the Company.

L. Ea. Ah! Poor Lady Betty.

L. Bett. Pshah!

[Exeunt.]

The Scene Changes to Sir Charles's Lodgings.

Enter Sir Charles and Lady Morelove.

L. Mo. Charles! you have transported me; you have made my Part in the Scene so very easie too, 'tis impossible I shou'd fail in

Sir Cha. That's what I consider'd : For Now the more you throw your self into her Power, the more I shall be able to Force her into yours.

Ld Mo. After all (begging the Ladies Pardon) Your Fine Women, like Bullies, are only stout where they know their Men: A Man of an Honest Courage may fright 'em into any thing! Well, I am fully Instructed, and will about it Instantly — Won't you go along with me?

Sir Cha. That may not be so Proper; beside I have a little Business upon my Hands.

Ld Mo. O your Servant, Sir — Good by to you — you shan't stir.

Sir Cha. My Lord, your Servant — [Exit *Ld Morelove.*
So! Now to dispose of my self, till 'tis time to think of my Lady *Graveairs* — Umh! — I have no great Maw to that Business, methinks — I don't find my self in Humour Enough to come up to the Civil things, that are usually expected in the making up of an Old Quarrel — [Edging *Crosses the Stage.*
There goes a Warmer Temptation by half! Ha! into my Wives Bedchamber too — I question if the Jade has any great Business there; I have a great Fancy she has only a mind to be taking the Opportunity of no Body's being at Home, to make her Peace with me — let me see — ay, I shall have time enough to go to her Ladyship afterwards — Beside I want a little Sleep, I find — Your Young Fops may talk of their Women of Quality — but, to me now, there's a strange Agreeable Convenience in a Creature one is not Oblig'd to say much to upon these Occasions. [Going.

Enter Edging.

Edg. Did you call me, Sir.

Sir Cha. Hah! all's Right — [Aside.] — Yes, Madam, I did call you.

Edg. What wou'd you please to have, Sir? [He sits down.

Sir Cha. Have! — why, I wou'd have you grow a Good Girl, and know when you are well Us'd, Hussy.

Edg. Sir, I don't Complain of any thing, not I.

Sir Cha. Well, don't be Uneasy — I am not Angry with you Now — Come, and Kiss me.

Edg. Lard, Sir —

Sir Cha. Don't be a Fool now — come hither.

Edg. Pihah — [Goes to him.

Sir Cha. No Wry Faces — so — sit down. I won't have you look Grave neither — let me see you smile, you Jade you

Edg. Hah! hah! [Laughs and Blushes.

Sir Cha. Ah, you melting Rogue!

Edg. Come, don't you be at your Tricks Now — Lard! can't you sit still and talk with one; I am sure there's ten times more Love in that, and fifty times the Satisfaction, People may say what they will

Sir Cha. Well? now you're Good, you shall have your own way, — I am going to lye down in the Next Room; and, since you love a little Chat, come and throw my Night-Gown over me, and you shall talk me to sleep. — [Exit *Sir Cha.*

Edg. Yes, Sir — for all his Way, I see he likes me still.

[Exit after him.

The Scene Changes to the Terrace.

Enter Lady Betty, Lady Easy, and Lord Morelove.

L. Mo. Nay, Madam, there you are too severe upon him; for Bating now and then a little Vanity, my Lord *Foppington* does not want Wit sometimes to make him a very Tolerable Woman's Man.

L. Bett. But such Eternal Vanity grows Tiresome.

L. Ea. Come, if he were not so loose in his Morals, Vanity me-thinks might easily be Excus'd considering how much 'tis in Fashion: For 'pray' Observe what's half the Conversation of most of the Fine Young People about Town, but a perpetual Affectation of appearing foremost in the Knowledge of Manners, New Modes, and Scandal; and in that I don't see any body comes up to him.

Ld Mo. Nor I indeed — and Here he comes — 'Pray', Madam, let's have a little more of him; no Body shews him to more Advantage than your Ladyship.

L. Bett. Nay, withal my Heart, you'll second me, my Lord.

Ld Mo. Upon Occasion, Madam —

L. Ea. Engaging upon Parties, my Lord.

[Aside, and smiling to *Ld Mo.*

Enter Lord Foppington.

Ld Fop. So, Ladies! What's the Affair Now.

L. Bett. Why you were, my Lord, I was allowing you a Great many Good Qualities; but Lady *Easy* says, you are a perfect Hypocrite; and that whatever Airs you give your self to the Women, she's Confident you value no Woman in the World Equal to your own Lady.

Ld Fop. You see, Madam, how I am scandaliz'd upon your Account: But it's so Natural for a Prude to be Malicious, when a Man endeavours to be well with any Body but her self; did you never Observe she was Piqu'd at that before? ha! ha!

L. Bett. I'll swear you are a Provoking Creature.

Ld Fop. Let's be more Familiar upon't, and give her Disorder: Ha! ha!

L. Bett. Ha! ha! ha!

Ld Fop. Stap my Breath, but Lady *Easy* is an Admirable Discoverer. — Marriage is indeed a Prodigious Security of ones Inclination: A Man's likely to take a World of Pains in an Employment, where he can't be turn'd out for his Idleness.

L. Bett. I vow, my Lord, that's vastly Generous to all the Fine Women; you are for giving 'em a Despotick Power in Love, I see, to Reward and Punish, as they Think fit.

Ld Fop. Ha! ha! Right, Madam, what signifies Beauty without Power? And a Fine Woman when she's Married makes as Ridiculous a Figure, as a Beaten General marching out of a Garrison.

L. Ea. I'm afraid, Lady *Betty*, the greatest Danger in your Use of Power, wou'd be from a too Heedless Liberality; you wou'd more mind the Man, than his Merit.

Ld Fop. Piqued again, by all that's Fretful — Well, Certainly to give Envy, is a Pleasure inexpressible.

L. Bett. Ha! ha! ha!

[To *L. Betty*.

L. Ea. Does not she shew him well, my Lord? [Aside to *Ld Mo.*

Ld Mor. Perfectly, and me too to my self — For now I almost Blush to think I ever was uneasie at him.

Ld Fop. Ha! ha! Lady *Easy*, I ask Ten thousand Pardons, I'm afraid I am rude all this While.

L. Ea. O not at all, my Lord, you are always good Company, when you Please; Not but in some things, Indeed, you are apt to be like other Fine Gentlemen, A little too loose in your Principles.

Ld Fop.

L. Fop. O, Madam, never to the Offence of the Ladies, I agree in any Community with them; No Body is a more Constant Churchman, when the Fine Women are there.

L. Ea. O Fy, my Lord, you ought not to go for their sakes at all And I wonder, you that are for being such a Good Husband o your Vertues, are not afraid of bringing your Prudence in to f Lampoon or a Play.

L. Bett. Lampoons and Plays, Madam, are only Things to be laugh'd at.

Ld Mo. Plays now indeed one need not be so much afraid of, for since the late short-sighted View of 'em, Vice may go on and Prosper, the Stage dares hardly shew a Vicious Person speaking like himself, for fear of being call'd Prophane for Exposing him.

L. Ea. 'Tis Hard indeed; when People won't Distinguish between what's Meant for Contempt, and what for Example.

L. Fop. Od so! Ladies, the Court's coming home, I see, shall not we go make our Bows?

L. Bett. O! by all means.

L. Ea. Lady Betty I must leave you: For I'm oblig'd to write Letters, and I know you won't give me Time after Supper.

L. Bett. Well, my Dear, I'll make a short Visit and be with you. Pray what's become of my Lady Graveairs? [*Ex. Lady Easy.*]

Ld Mo. I believe she's gone home, Madam, she seem'd not to be very well.

Ld Fop. And where's Sir Charles, my Lord?

Ld Mo. I left him at his own Lodgings.

L. Bett. He's upon some Ramble I'm afraid.

L. Fop. Nay, as for that Matter, a Man may Ramble at Home sometimes! But here come the Chaises, we must make a little more Haste, Madam. [*Exeunt.*]

The Scene changes to Sir Charles's Lodgings.

Enter Lady Easy, and a Servant.

L. Ea. Is your Master come home?

Serv. Yes, Madam.

L. Ea. Where is he?

Serv. I believe, Madam, he's laid down to Sleep.

L. Ea. Where's Edging, — Bid her get me some Wax and Paper — stay, it's no matter, now I think on it, there's some above upon my Toilet. [*Exeunt severally.*]

The Scene Opens, and Discovers Sir Charles without his Periwig, and Edging by him, both asleep in two Easy-Chairs.

And then Enter Lady Easy, who Starts and Trembles some time, unable to speak.

L. Ea. Ha!

Protect me Virtue! Patience! Reason!

Teach me to Bear this Killing sight, or let

Me think my Dreaming Senses are Deceiv'd!

For sure a Sight like This might raise the Arm

Of Duty, even to the Breast of Love! At least

I'll throw this Vizor of my Patience off:

Now wake him in his Guilt,

And Barefac'd Front him with my Wrongs.

I'll talk to him till he Blushes, nay, till he —

— Frowns on me, perhaps, — and then

I'm lost again — The Ease of a Few Tears

Is all that's left to me —

And Duty too forbids me to Insult,

Where I have vow'd Obedience — Perhaps

The Fault's in me, and Nature has not Form'd

Me with the Thousand little Requisites

That Warm the Heart to Love —

Somewhere there is a Fault —

But Heav'n best knows what Both of us deserve:

Ha! Bare-headed, and in so sound a Sleep!

Who knows, while thus Expos'd to the unwholesome Air

But Heav'n offended may o'ertake his Crime, and in some languishing Distemper, leave him a severe Example of his violated

Laws — Forbid it Mercy, and forbid it Love. This may prevent it.

[Takes her Steinkirk from her Neck, and lays it gently over his Head.]

And if he shou'd wake offended at my too Busy Care, let my Heart-breaking Patience, Duty, and my Fond Affection plead my Pardon.

[Exit.]

[After she has been out some time, a Bell rings, at which the Maid waking starts, and stirs Sir Charles.]

Edg. Oh!

Sir Cha. How now, what's the Matter?

Edg. O! Bless my Soul, my Lady's come home.

The Careless Husband.

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Sir Cha. Go, go, then.

[Runs to the Glass. Bell-rings.]

Edg. O lud! my Head's in such a Condition too — I am coming, Madam — O lud! here's no Powder neither — Here Madam. Exit.

Sir Cha. How now! [Feeling the Steinkirk upon his Head.] What's this? How came it here? — Did not I see my Wife wear this to Day? — Death! she can't have been here sure! It could not be Jealousie that Brought her home — for my coming was Accidental — so too, I fear, might hers. — How careless have I been? — Not to secure the Door neither — 'Twas Foolish — It must be so! She certainly has seen me here Sleeping with her Woman — If so, How Low an Hypocrite to her must that sight have Prov'd me? the thought has made me Despicable ev'n to my self — How mean a Vice is Lying? And how often have these Empty Pleasures lull'd my Honour and my Conscience to a Lethargy, while I grossly have abus'd her, Poorly Skulking behind a Thousand Falshoods? — Now I reflect, this has not been the first of her Discoveries — How Contemptible a Figure must I have made to her? — A Crowd of Recollected Circumstances confirm me now, she has been long acquainted with my Follies, and yet with what amazing Prudence has she born the secret Pangs of Injur'd Love, and wore an everlasting Smile to me? — This asks a little Thinking — something should be done. — I'll see her Instantly, and be resolv'd from her Behaviour. [Exit.]

The Scene Changes to another Room.

Enter Lady Easy, and Edging.

L. Ea. Where have you been, *Edging*?

Edg. Been, Madam! I — I — I — came as soon as I heard you Ring, Madam.

L. Ea. How Guilt confounds her — but she's below my Thought. Fetch my last new Scarf hither — I have a Mind to alter it a little — make haste.

Edg. Yes Madam — I see she does not suspect anything. Exit.

L. Ea. [Sitting down.] Heigh ho! — I had forgot — but I'm unfit for Writing now. — 'Twas an hard Conflict — yet it's a Joy to think it over: A secret Pride, to tell my Heart my Conduct has been just — How low are Vicious Minds, that Offer Injuries, how much superior Innocence that Bears 'em? — Still there's

a Pleasure ev'n in the Melancholy of a Quiet Conscience — Away my Tears, it is not yet Impossible: For while his Humane Nature is not quite shook off, I ought not to Despair.

Re-enter Edging, with a Scarf.

Edg. Here's the Scarf, Madam.

L. Ea. So, sit down there, and, let me see — here — Rip off all that Silver.

Edg. Indeed, I always thought it wou'd become your Ladyship better without it, but now suppose, Madam, you carried another Row of Gold round those Scollops, and then you take and lay this Silver Plain all along the Gathers, and your Ladyship will perfectly see, it will give the Thing Ten-thousand times another Air.

L. Ea. Prithce don't be impertinent, do as I bid you.

Edg. Nay, Madam, with all my Heart, your Ladyship may do as you please.

L. Ea. This Creature grows so Confident, and I dare not Part with her lest He shou'd think it Jealousy. *[Aside.*

Enter Sir Charles.

Sir Cha. So, my Dear, what, at Work! How are you employ'd, pray?

L. Ea. I was thinking to alter this Scarf here.

Sir Cha. What's amiss; methinks its very pretty.

Edg. Yes, Sir, it's pretty enough for that Matter — but my Lady had a Mind it shou'd be Proper too.

Sir Cha. Indeed!

L. Ea. I Fancy Plain Gold and Black wou'd become me better.

Sir Cha. That's a Grave Thought, my Dear.

Edg. O Dear Sir, not at all, my Lady's much in the Right, I am sure, as it is, it's fit for Nothing but a Girl.

Sir Cha. Leave the Room.

Edg. Lard Sir! I can't stir, I must stay to —

Sir Cha. Go — *[Angrily.]*

Edg. *[Throwing down the Scarf Hastily, and Crying aside.]* If ever I speak to him again I'll be Burn'd. *[Exit Edging.]*

Sir Cha. Sit still, my Dear, — I came to Talk with you, and which you well may wonder at; what I have to say is of Importance too, but tis in order to my Hereafter always talking Kindly to you.

L. Ea. Your Words were never Disobliging, nor can I charge you with a Look that ever had the Appearance of Unkind.

Sir Cha. The Perpetual Spring of your Good Humour lets me draw no Merit from what I have Appear'd to be, which makes me Curious now to know your Thoughts of what I really am: And never having ask'd you this before it puzzles me; nor can I (that strange Negligence consider'd) Reconcile to Reason your first Thoughts of venturing upon Marriage with me.

L. Ea. I never thought it such an Hazard.

Sir Cha. How cou'd a Woman of your Restraint in Principles, Sedateness, Sense, and Tender Disposition, Propose to see an Happy Life with One (now I reflect) that Hardly took an Hour's Pains, ev'n before Marriage, to appear but what I am, A loose Unheeding Wretch, Absent in all I do, Civil, and as often Rude without Design, Unseasonably Thoughtful, Easy to a Fault, and in my Best of Praise but Carelessly Good Natur'd; How shall I reconcile your Temper with having made so strange a Choice?

L. Ea. Your own Words may Answer you — Your having never seem'd to Be, but what you really were; and through that carelessness of Temper, there still shone forth to me an Undesigning Honesty, I always Doubted of in smother Faces: Thus, while I saw you took least Pains to win me, You pleas'd, and Woed me most: Nay, I have often thought that such a Temper cou'd never be Deliberately Unkind: Or, at the worst, I knew, that Errors from want of Thinking might be Born; at least, when Probably one Moment's serious Thought wou'd End 'em: These were my worst of Fears, and These when weigh'd by Growing Love against my solid Hopes were Nothing.

Sir Cha. My Dear, your Understanding startles me, and justly calls my own in Question: I Blush to think I've worn so Bright a Jewel in my Bosom, and till this Hour, have scarce been Curious once to look upon its Lustre.

L. Ea. You set too High a Value on the common Qualities of an Easy Wife.

Sir Cha. Virtues, like Benefits, are Double, when Conceal'd: And I confess I yet suspect you of an Higher Value far, than I have spoke you.

L. Ea. I understand you not.

Sir Cha. I'll speak more Plainly to you — Be free, and tell me — Where did you leave this Handkerchief?

L. Ea. Hah!

Sir Cha. What is't you start at? You hear the Question.

L. Ea. What shall I say? my Fears confound me.

Sir Cha. Be not Concern'd, my Dear, be Easy in the Truth, and tell me.

L. Ea. I cannot speak — and I cou'd with you'd not Oblige me to it — 'tis the only Thing I ever yet Refus'd You — and tho' I want a Reason for my Will let me not Answer You.

Sir Cha. Your Will then be a Reason, and since I see you are so Generously Tender of Reproaching me, 'tis fit I shou'd be Easy in my Gratitude, and make what ought to be my Shame, my Joy; let me therefore Pleas'd to tell you Now, your Wondrous Conduct has wak'd me to a sense of your Disquiet Past, and Resolution never to Disturb it more — And (not that I offer it as a Merit, but yet in Blind Compliance to my Will) let me Beg you wou'd Immediately Discharge your Woman.

L. Ea. Alas! I think not of her — O, my Dear, Distract me not with this Excess of Goodness, *[Weeping.]*

Sir Cha. Nay, Praise me not, least I reflect how little I have deserv'd it — I see you are in Pain to give me this Confusion — Come, I will not Shock your Softness, by my untimely Blush for what is Past, but rather sooth you to a Pleasure at my sense of Joy for my Recover'd Happiness to come: Give then to my new-born Love, what Name you Please, it cannot, shall not be too Kind: O! it cannot be too soft for what my Soul swells up with Emulation to deserve — Receive me then Intire at last, and take what yet no Woman ever Truly Had, my Conquer'd Heart.

L. Ea. O the soft Treasure! O the Dear Reward of long Desiring Love — Now I am Blest indeed to see you Kind without th' Expende of Pain in being so, to make you mine with Easiness Thus! thus to have you mine is something more than Happiness, 'tis Double Life, and Madness of Abounding Joy. But 'twas a Pain Intollerable to give you a Confusion.

Sir Cha. O thou Engaging Virtue! But I'm too slow in doing Justice to thy Love: I know thy softness will refuse me; but remember I insist upon it — let thy Woman be Discharg'd this Minute.

L. Ea. No, my Dear, think me not so low in Faith, to fear that, after what you've said, it will ever be in her Power to do me future Injury: When I can conveniently Provide for her I'll think on't: But to Discharge her Now might let her Guess at the Occasion; and methinks I wou'd have all our Differences, like our Endearments, be Equally a Secret to our Servants.

The Careless Husband.

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Sir Cha. Still my Superior every way — 'be it as you have better thought — well, my Dear, now I'll confess a thing that was not in your Power to Accuse me of; to be short, I own this Creature is not the only one I have been to Blame with.

L. Ea. I know she is not, and was always less concern'd to find it so, for Constancy in Errors might have been Fatal to me.

Sir Cha. What is't you know, my Dear? [Surpriz'd.]

L. Ea. Come, I am not afraid to accuse you Now — my Lady Graveairs — Your Carelessness, my Dear, let all the World know it, and it wou'd have been Hard indeed, had it been only to me a Secret.

Sir Cha. My Dear, I'll ask no more Questions, for fear of being more Ridiculous; I do confess I thought my Discretion there had been a Masterpiece — How Contemptible must I have look'd all this while?

L. Ea. You shan't say so.

Sir Cha. Well, to let you see I had some Shame, as well as Nature in me, I had writ this to my Lady Graveairs, upon my first discovering that you knew I had wrong'd you; Read it.

L. Ea. [Reads.] “Something has happen'd that Prevents the
“Visit I intended you; and I could gladly wish,
“You never wou'd Reproach me, if I tell you,
“'tis utterly Inconvenient that I shou'd ever see
“you more.

This indeed was more than I had Merited.

Enter a Servant.

Sir Cha. Who's there? Here — Step with this to my Lady Graveairs. [Seals the Letter, and gives it to the Servant.]

Serv. Yes, Sir, — Madam, my Lady Betty's come.

L. Ea. I'll wait on her.

Sir Cha. My dear, I'm thinking there may be other things my Negligence may have wrong'd you in; but be assur'd, as I discover 'em, all shall be Corrected: Is there any Part or Circumstance in your Fortune that I can change, or yet make Easier to you?

L. Ea. None, my Dear, your Good Nature never stinted me in that; and now, methinks I have less Occasion there than ever.

Re-enter Servant.

Serv. Sir, my Lord Morelove's come.

Sir Cha. I am coming. — I think I told you of the Design we had laid against Lady Betty.

L. Ea. You did, and I shou'd be pleas'd to be my self concern'd in it.

Sir Cha. I believe we may Employ you : I know he waits me with Impatience. But, my Dear, won't you think me tasteless to the Joy you've given me, to suffer at this time any Concern but You t'employ my Thoughts.

L. Ea. Seasons must be Obey'd ; and since I know your Friends Happiness Depending, I cou'd not taste my own shou'd you neglect it.

Sir Cha. Thou Easy Sweetness — O! what a waste on thy Neglected Love, has my Unthinking Brain committed : But Time and Future Thrift of Tenderness shall yet repair it all : The Hours will Come when this soft Gliding Stream that swells my Heart, uninterrupted shall Renew its Course,

And like the Ocean after Ebb, shall move
With Constant Force of Due Returning Love. [Exeunt.

The Scene Changes to another Room,

And then Re-enter Lady Easy and Lady Betty.

L. Bett. You've been in Tears my Dear, and yet you look Pleas'd too.

L. Ea. You'll Pardon me, if I can't yet let you into Circumstances : But be satisfied, *Sir Charles* has made me Happy ev'n to a Pain of Joy.

L. Bett. Indeed I am truly Glad of it : tho' I am sorry to find that any One who has Generosity enough to do you Justice shou'd unprovok'd be so great an Enemy to me.

L. Ea. *Sir Charles* your Enemy !

L. Bett. My Dear you'll Pardon me, if I always thought him so. But now I am convinc'd of it.

L. Ea. In what Pray ? I can't think you'll find him so.

L. Bett. O! Madam, it has been his whole Business of late to make an utter Breach between my Lord *Morelove* and me.

L. Ea. That may be owing to your Usage of my Lord, perhaps he thought it wou'd not Disoblige you : I am Confident you are Mistaken in him.

L. Bett. O! I don't use to be out in things of this Nature, I can see well Enough : But I shall be Able to tell you more, when I have talkt with my Lord, ha! ha! ha!

L. Ea. Here he comes ; and because you shall Talk with him — No Excuses — for Positively I will have you together.

The Careless Husband.

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L. Bett. Indeed, my Dear, I desire you would stay then; for, I know you think now, that I have a Mind to — to —

L. Ea. To — to — ha! ha! ha!

[*Going.*]

L. Bett. Well! remember This.

Enter Lord Morelove.

Ld Mo. I hope I don't fright you away, Madam.

L. Ea. Not at all, my Lord; but I must beg your Pardon for a Moment, I'll wait upon you immediately.

L. Bett. My Lady *Easy* gone?

L. Mo. Perhaps, Madam, in Friendship to you, she thinks I may have deserv'd the Coldness you of late have shewn me; and was willing to give you this Opportunity to Convince me, you have not done it without Just Grounds and Reason.

L. Bett. How Handsomely does he Reproach me? But I can't bear that he shou'd think I know it — [Aside.] My Lord whatever has Pass'd between you and me, I dare swear that cou'd not be her Thought at this time: For when two People have appear'd profess'd Enemies, she can't but think one will as little care to give, as t'other to receive a Justification of their Actions.

Ld Mo. Passion indeed often does repented Injuries on both sides; but I don't remember in my Heat of Error, I ever yet profess'd my self your Enemy.

L. Bett. My Lord, I shall be very free with you — I confess I do think now I have not a greater Enemy in the World.

Ld Mo. If having long lov'd you, to my own Disquiet, be Injurious, I am contented then to stand the foremost of your Enemies.

L. Bett. O, my Lord, there's no great Fear of your being my Enemy that way, I dare say —

Ld Mo. There is no other way my Heart can Bear to Offend you Now, and I foresee in that it will persist to my Undoing.

L. Bett. Fy, fy, my Lord, we know where your Heart is well Enough.

Ld Mo. My Conduct has indeed Deserv'd this Scorn; and therefore 'tis but Just I shou'd submit to your Resentment, and beg, tho' I'm assur'd in vain, for Pardon. [Kneels.]

Enter Sir Charles.

Sir Cha. How, my Lord!

L. Bett. Ha! he here? This was Unlucky.

[*Ld Mo. rises.*]

[*Aside.*]

Ld Mo.

Ld Mo. O Pray my Confusion! [To L. Betty,

Sir Cha. I am sorry to see you can so soon forget your self; methinks the Insults you have born from that Lady, by this Time, shou'd have warn'd you into a Disgust of her Regardless Principles.

Ld Mo. Hold, Sir Charles! While you and I are Friends, I desire you wou'd speak with Honour of this Lady: 'Tis sufficient I have no Complaint against her, and —

L. Bett. My Lord — I beg you wou'd resent this thing no farther: An Injury like this is better Punisht with our Contempt; Apparent Malice only shou'd be laugh'd at —

Sir Cha. Ha! ha! the Old Recourse, Offers of any Hopes to de-
 clude him from his Resentment; and then as the *Grand Monarch* did
 with *Cavalier*, you are sure to keep your Word with him.

L. Bett. Sir Charles, to let you know how far I am above your
 little Spleen, My Lord, your Hand from this Hour —

Sir Cha. Pshah! Pshah! All Design! all Pique! meer Artifice,
 and Disappointed Woman.

L. Bett. Look you, Sir, not that I doubt my Lord's Opinion of
 me; yet —

Sir Cha. Look you, Madam, in short your word has been too
 often taken to let you make up Quarrels, as you us'd to do with a
 soft Look, and a fair Promise you never Intended to Keep.

L. Bett. Was ever such an Insolence, he won't give me leave to
 speak.

Ld Mo. Sir Charles!

L. Bett. No pray, my Lord, have Patience; and since his Ma-
 lice seems to grow Particular; I dare his worst, and urge him to the
 Proof on't: Pray, Sir, wherein can you Charge me with Breach
 of Promise to my Lord?

Sir Cha. Death, you won't deny it? How often, to piece up a
 Quarrel, have you Appointed him to Visit you alone; and tho'
 you have promis'd to see no other Company the whole Day, when
 he has come, he has found you among the laugh of Noisy Fops,
 Coquettes, and Coxcombs, Dissolutely Gay, while your Full Eyes
 ran o'er with Transport of their Flattery, and your own vain Pow-
 er of pleasing? How often, I say, have you been known to throw
 away at least four-hours of your good Humour upon such Wretches;
 and the Minute they were gone, grew only Dull to him, sunk into
 a Disastful Spleen, complain'd you had talk'd your self into the
 Head-ach, and then Indulg'd upon the Dear Delight of seeing him
 in Pain: And by that time you stretch, and Gape him Heartily
 out of Patience, of a sudden still remember you had

out-sate your Appointment with my Lady Fiddle-faddle; and immediately order your Coach to the Park.

L. Bett. Yet, Sir, have you done?

Sir Cha. No — tho' this might serve to shew the Nature of your Principles: But the Noble Conquest you have Gain'd at last over Defeated Sense of Reputation too, has made your Fame Immortal.

Ld Mo. How, Sir?

L. Bett. My Reputation!

Sir Cha. Ay, Madam, your Reputation — my Lord, if I advance a Falshood, then Resent it — I say, your Reputation — 't has been your Life's whole Pride of late to be the Common Toast of every Publick Table, Vain ev'n in the Infamous Addresses of a Married Man, my Lord *Foppington*; let that be reconcil'd with Reputation, I'll now shake Hands with Shame, and Bow me to the low Contempt which you deserve from him; not but I suppose you'll yet Endeavour to recover him: Now you find Ill Usage in Danger of losing your Conquest, 'tis Possible you'll stop at Nothing to preserve it.

L. Bett. Sir Charles — [Walks disorder'd, and he after her.]

Sir Cha. I know your Vanity is so Voracious, 'twill ev'n wound it self to feed it self; Offer him a Blank, perhaps, to fill up with Hopes of what Nature he Pleases, and Part with ev'n your Pride to keep him.

L. Bett. Sir Charles, I have not deserv'd this of you.

[Bursting into Tears.]

Sir Cha. Ah! True Woman, drop him a soft Dissembling Tear, and then his Just Resentment must be Hush of Course.

Ld Mo. O, Charles! I can bear no more, those Tears are too Reproaching.

Sir Cha. Hilt for your Life! [Aside, and then aloud.]

My Lord if you believe her, you're undone; the very next sight of my Lord *Foppington* wou'd make her yet forswear all that she can Promise.

L. Bett. My Lord *Foppington*! Is that the mighty Crime that must Condemn me then? You know I us'd him but as a Tool of my Resentment, which you your self, by a Pretended Friendship to us Both, most Artfully Provokt me to —

L. Mo. Hold, I conjure you, Madam, I want not this Conviction.

L. Bett. Send for him this Minute, and You and He shall Both be Witnesses of the Contempt, and Detestation I have for any Forward

ward Hopes his Vainety may have given him, or your Malice would Insinuate.

Sir *Cha.* 'Death! You would as soon eat Fire, as soon Part with your Luxurious Taste of Folly, as Dare to own the Half of this. Before his Fate, or any one, that would make you Blush to deny it to — Here comes my Wife, Now we shall see — Ha! and my Lord *Foppington* with her — Now! Now, we shall see this mighty Proof of your Sincerity — Now, my Lord, you'll have a Warning sure, and henceforth know me for your Friend Indeed

Enter Lady Easy and Lord Foppington.

L. *Ea.* In Tears my Dear, what's the Matter?

L. *Bett.* O, my Dear, all I told you's true: Sir *Charles* has shewn himself so inveterately my Enemy, that if I believ'd I deserv'd but Half his Hate, 'twould make me Hate my self.

L. *Fop.* Hark you, *Charles*, Prithee what is this Business?

Sir *Cha.* Why yours, my Lord, for ought I know — I have made such a Breach betwixt 'em — I can't promise much for the Courage of a Woman; but if hers holds, I am sure it's wide enough, you may Enter Ten a Breast, my Lord.

Ld *Fop.* Say'st thou so, *Charles*; then I hold Six to Four I am the first Man in the Town.

L. *Ea.* Sure there must be some Mistake in this; I hope he has not made my Lord your Enemy.

L. *Bett.* I know not what he has done.

Ld *Mo.* Far be that Thought! Alas! I am too much in Fear my self, that what I have this Day Committed, Advis'd by his Mistaken Friendship, may have done, my Love Irreparable Prejudice.

L. *Bett.* No, my Lord, since I perceive his little Arts have not prevail'd upon your Good Nature to my Prejudice, I am bound in Gratitude, in Duty to my self, and to the Confession you have made, my Lord, to acknowledge Now, I have been to Blame too.

Ld *Ma.* Ha! Is't Possible, can you own so much? O my Transported Heart!

L. *Bett.* He says, I have taken Pleasure in seeing you Uneasy — I own it — but 'twas when that Uneasiness I thought Proceeded from your Love; and if you did love — 'twill not be much to Par-

Enter Lord Foppington. L. *Mo.*

Ld Mo. O let my Soul, thus Bending to your Power, adore this soft Descending Goodness.

L. Bett. And since the Giddy Woman's Sights I have shewn you too often have been Publick, 'tis fit at last th' Amends and Reparation shou'd be so: Therefore what I offer'd to Sir Charles, I now Repeat before this Company, my Utter Detestation of any Past, or Future Gallantry, that has, or shall be offer'd me to your Uneasiness.

Ld Mo. O be less Generous, or teach me to deserve it — Now Blush, Sir Charles, at your Injurious Accusation.

Ld Fop. Hah! *Pardi voità quelque Chose D'Extrodinaire.* [Aside.

L. Bett. As for my Lord Foppington, I owe him Thanks for having been so Friendly an Instrument of our Reconciliation; for tho' in the little outward Gallantry I received from him, I did not immediately trust him with my Design in it; yet I have a better Opinion of his Understanding, than to suppose he cou'd Mistake it.

L. Fop. I am struck Dumb with the Deliberation of her Assurance; and do not Positively remember, that the *Non Challenge* of my Temper ever had so Bright an Occasion to shew it self before.

L. Bett. My Lord, I hope you'll Pardon the Freedom I have taken with you.

Ld Fop. O, Madam, don't be under the Confusion of an Apology upon my Account; for in Cases of this Nature I am never Disappointed, but when I find a Lady of the same Mind two hours together — Madam, I have lost a thousand Fine Women in my time; But never had the Ill Manners to be out of Humour with any one for refusing me since I was Born.

L. Bett. My Lord, that's a very Prudent Temper.

Ld Fop. Madam, to Convince you, that I am in a Universal Peace with Mankind, since you own I have so far Contributed to your Happiness, give me leave to have the Honour of Compleating it, by Joyning your Hand where you have already offer'd up your Inclination.

L. Bett. My Lord, that's a Favour I can't refuse you.

Ld Mo. Generous indeed, my Lord. [Ld Fop. Joins their hands.

Ld Fop. And stop my Breath, if ever I was better Pleas'd since my first Entrance into Human Nature.

Sir Cha. How now; my Lord! What! throw up your Cards before you have lost the Game?

Ld Fop. Look you, Charles, 'tis true, I did design to have Play'd with her alone: But he that will keep well with the Ladies, must

Sometimes be content to make me at a Fool with 'em: And since I know I must engage her in my Turn, I don't see any great Odds in letting him take the first Game with her.

Sir Cha. Wisely Consider'd, my Lord.

L. Bett. And Now, *Sir Charles* —

Sir Cha. And Now, Madam, I'll save you the Trouble of a long Speech; and, in one Word, Confess that every thing I have done in Regard to you this Day was purely Artificial — I saw there was no way to secure you to my Lord *Morelove*, but by Alarming your Pride with the Danger of losing him: And since the Success must have by this time Convinc'd you, that in Love nothing is more Ridiculous, than an over-acted Aversion; I am sure you won't take it ill, if we at last Congratulate your good Nature, by Heartily laughing at the Fright we had put you in. Ha! ha! ha!

L. Ea. Ha! ha! ha!

L. Bett. Why — well, I declare it now, I hate you worse than ever.

Sir Cha. Ha! ha! ha! and was it afraid they would take its Love from it — Poor Lady *Betty*! ha! ha!

L. Ea. My Dear, I beg your Pardon; but 'tis impossible not to laugh when ones so heartily pleas'd.

L. Fop. Really, Madam, I am afraid the good Humour of the Company will draw me into your Displeasure too; but if I were to expire this Moment, my last Breath would Positively go out in a laugh. Ha! ha! ha!

L. Bett. Nay, I have deserv'd it all, that's the Truth on't — but I hope, my Lord, You were not in this Design against me.

Ld. Mo. As a Proof, Madam, I am inclin'd never to Deceive you more — I do confess — I had my share in't.

L. Bett. You do, my Lord! — then I declare 'twas a Design, one or other — the best Carry'd on, that ever I knew in my life; and (to my shame I own it) for ought I know, the only thing that could have prevail'd upon my Temper: 'Twas a Foolish Pride, that has Cost me many a Bitter Lip to support it — I wish we don't both repent, my Lord.

Ld. Mo. Don't you Repent without me, and we never shall.

Sir Cha. Well Madam, now the worst that the World can say of your Past Conduct, is, that my Lord had Constancy, and you have try'd it.

Enter

The Careless Husband.

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Enter a Servant to Lord Morelove.

Serv. My Lord, Mr. *Le Fevre's* below, and desires to know what time your Lordship will Please to have the Musick Begin.

Ld Mo. Sir *Charles*, what say you? will you give me leave to bring 'em Hither?

Sir Cha. As the Ladies think fit, my Lord.

L. Bett. O! by all means, 'twill be better here, unless we cou'd have the Terrace to our selves.

Ld Mo. Then Pray' Desire 'em to come all hither Immediately.

Serv. Yes, my Lord.

[Exit Servant.]

Enter Lady Graveairs.

Sir Cha. Lady *Graveairs*!

L. Gra. Yes! you may well start! but don't suppose I am now come like a Poor Tame Fool to upbraid your Guilt; But if I cou'd to Blast you with a Look.

Sir Cha. Come, come, you yet have sense. — Don't Expose yourself, you are unhappy, and I own my self the Cause — The only Satisfaction I can offer you, is to Proest, No New Engagement takes me from you: But a sincere Reflection of the long Neglect, and Injuries I've done the Best of Wives, for whose Amends, and only sake I now must Part with You, and all the Inconvient Pleasures of my Life.

L. Gr. Have you then fallen into the Low Contempt of Exposing me, and to your Wife too?

Sir Cha. 'Twas Impossible, without it, I cou'd ever be sincere in my Conversion.

L. Gra. Despicable!

Sir Cha. Do not think it so — for my sake I know she'll not reproach you, nor by her Carriage ever let the World perceive you've wrong'd her — my Dear.

L. Ea. Lady *Graveairs*, I hope you'll Sup with us?

L. Gra. I can't refuse so much Good Company, Madam.

Sir Cha. You see the Worst of her Resentment — in the meantime don't Endeavour to be her Friend, and she'll never be your Enemy.

L. Gra. I am Unfortunate — 'tis what my Folly has deserv'd, and I submit to it.

Ld Mo. So! here's the Musick.

L. Ea. Come, Ladies, shall we sit.

The Unkindness

After the Music, a SONG.

*She was with an Angel's Face,
By Love Order'd for Joy,
Seems of the Syren's Cruel Race,
To Charm, and then Destroy;
With all the Arts of Look, and Dress,
She Feeds the Fatal Fire,
Through Pride, Mistaken oft for Grace,
She Bids the Swain Expire.*

*The God of Love Enrag'd to see
The Nymph Desy his Flame,
Pronounc'd this Merciless Decree
Against the Haughty Dame.*

*Let Age with Double Speed o'ertake her,
Let Love the Ropes of Pride snap;
And when the Lovers all forsake her,
A Spotless Virgin let her Dye.*

Sir Charles comes forward, with Lady Easy.

Sir Cha. Now, my Dear, I find my Happiness grow fast upon me; in all my Past Experience of the Sex, I found ev'n among the Bearer sort so much of Folly, Pride, Malice, Passion, and Irresolute Desire, that I concluded Thee but of the foremost Rank, and therefore scarce worthy my Concern; but thou hast surpris'd me with so severe a Proof of thy Exalted Virtue, it gives me Wonder Equal to my Love — If then the Unkindly Thought of what I have been, should ever thou'd invade upon my growing Care, let this Reflection teach thee to be Easy:

*The Poet, when Greatest Majesty he saw,
And from the Palace came, I hope, and say he said*

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